

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 4, 1991

Published Since 1877

Muslim converts held, Egypt

By Art Toalston

CAIRO, Egypt (BP) — Three Muslim converts to Christianity arrested nearly six months ago will be imprisoned for at least 45 more days after a March 27 hearing in an Egyptian court operating under martial law.

According to Menes Abdul Noor, pastor of the 1,000-member Kasr el Doubara Evangelical Church in Cairo, the converts are charged with contempt for Islam and threatening the unity of Egypt. The men have been part of Noor's congregation since converting to Christianity about five years ago.

"It's a human rights issue," Noor said in a telephone interview March 28. "These gentlemen did nothing against the constitution. They were not arrested because of violence or a crime, but solely because of reports from the secret police office."

The three men are being held in solitary confinement in the Abu Zaabal Industrial Prison on the outskirts of Cairo. "They are in good health and good morale," Noor said.

For about four months, however, they were "subjected to extreme forms of torture" to renounce their Christian faith, according to reports

circulated by the Cairo congregation. They were beaten, drugged, tortured with electrical rods, burned with cigarettes, hung by their wrists with handcuffs and cursed.

The men's names are Mustafa Muhammad Sa'id Al Sharkawi, 30; Muhammad Hussein Sallam, 25; and Hassan Muhammad Isma'eel Muhammad, 21. Their names often are spelled in different ways in various English-language reports.

Charges of converting to Christianity and seeking to convert others initially were filed against the men last fall. Two of the believers were arrested Sept. 28 and the other was arrested on Oct. 9. The charges were dismissed in "security" court hearings Nov. 23 and Dec. 8, Noor said, but officials of the Interior Ministry ordered them kept in jail. New charges of contempt for Islam and threatening Egypt's security were subsequently filed.

Laws in Muslim countries do not typically forbid conversion to Christianity, said David Bentley, religious rights researcher for the Zwemer Institute of Muslim Studies in Altadena, Calif. As United Nations members, Bentley noted, Muslim countries have

subscribed to U.N. declarations affirming the right of people to choose their religious faith.

One reason the Egyptian government targeted the three converts — and other Muslim governments periodically target Christians — is to lessen criticism from Muslim fundamentalists, Bentley noted. Many Muslim leaders are moderates seeking to keep fundamentalists in check, he said. "Most religious prisoners in that area of the world are Islamic fundamentalists," he added, "and they're clamoring for justice as much as Christians are."

In Egypt, for example, some 8,000 supporters of the Islamic opposition were arrested in 1989, according to Amnesty International. Islamic fundamentalists also were targeted, for example, by the governments of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, Amnesty International reported.

To lessen Muslim fundamentalist ire, governments in the region sometimes target Christians — or "look the other way" when fundamentalists bring various sorts of pressure against Christians, Bentley said.

Toalston writes for FMB.

I was afraid . . . I hid myself.

(Genesis 3:10)



Observe Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday
April 7, 1991

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Chaplain believes God provided protection

By Frank Wm. White

QUISUMAH, Saudi Arabia (BP) — A Southern Baptist chaplain with U.S. forces in the Gulf War said he believes God placed a hedge of protection around those soldiers and allowed victory without great casualty.

Chaplain Daniel O. Davis is chief of chaplains for the VII Corps, a conglomeration of more than 120,000 soldiers that crushed the Republican Guard forces in eastern Iraq north of Kuwait.

Davis said his prayer in early January had been that Saddam Hussein would realize the power arrayed against him, and "we would not have to use force."

"We wanted to do this without having to hurt, maim, destroy, and kill," the 30-year veteran chaplain said.

Before beginning a prayer service on Jan. 17, the day the air war began, Davis said he walked out into the desert and talked with God.

Later, on Feb. 24, just hours after the ground war push into Iraq began, Davis was in the corps forward tactical operations center just a few kilometers from the front lines for a briefing with the corps commander, Lt. Gen. Frederick M. Franks Jr. Franks turned to the chaplain and asked him to pray with the corps leaders.

"I asked God for his presence with us. I asked that we would do the best we could and accomplish our mission to the best of our abilities," Davis said.

"I knew that we could not be successful without the presence of God. I believe he provided that, and the low casualty rate was his miracle," Davis explained. The corps had fewer than

45 casualties during the four-day campaign — far fewer than any projections.

Davis said his responsibility to the corps commander and the responsibility of other chaplains is to be a spiritual adviser.

"Commanders can get other information from any place. The chaplain ought to have a message from God," Davis said. "I ask my chaplains to be in touch with the living God so they can bring soldiers to God and God to soldiers," he said.

After the combat, Davis was asked by a unit commander to go along on a burial detail. He spent two days assisting in the burial of more than 25 Iraqi soldiers.

One Southern Baptist chaplain, Brent V. Causey, was with the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, which lost eight soldiers in combat. That was perhaps the highest death toll of any unit in the corps, Davis said.

Davis, along with the corps commander, attended a service in Kuwait that Causey held for one of those soldiers. As Franks talked with some of the soldiers following the service, Davis said he saw Causey embracing a sobbing soldier, comforting him in the loss of his comrade.

"Chaplains become an integral part of the unit. They are part of an extended family. They are more than assigned clergymen."

White, a news writer for the Sunday School Board, is a public affairs officer with the Tennessee Army National Guard serving in the Persian Gulf with the U.S. Army VII Corps.



FOR NATIONAL DAYS OF THANKSGIVING, APRIL 5-7, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As the Psalmist wrote, "O give thanks to the Lord for He is gracious, for His mercy endures for ever." Almighty God has answered the prayers of millions of people with the liberation of Kuwait and the end of offensive operations in the Persian Gulf region. As we prepare to welcome home our courageous service men and women and join in the joyful celebrations of the Kuwaiti people, it is fitting that we give thanks to our Heavenly Father, our help and shield, for His mercy and protection.

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory . . . for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine . . . and Thou reignest over all . . . in Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee and praise Thy glorious Name.

As the Psalmist wrote, "Come behold the works of the Lord . . . He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 5-7, 1991, as National Days of Thanksgiving. I ask that Americans gather in homes and places of worship to give thanks to Almighty God for the liberation of Kuwait, for the blessings of peace and liberty, for our troops, our families, and our Nation. In addition, I direct that the flag of the United States be flown on all government buildings, I urge all Americans to display the flag, and I ask that bells across the country be set ringing at 3:00 p.m. (eastern daylight savings time) on April 7, 1991, in celebration of the liberation of Kuwait and the end of hostilities in the Persian Gulf.

George Bush

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

"A Song in the Night"

In *Children's Letters to God* by Marshall and Hamble, a young boy writes: "Dear God, what is it like when you die? Nobody will tell me. I just want to know. I don't want to do it. Your friend, Mike." We know death is on the calendar and we have an appointment with it. There are no veterans, no professionals when it comes to dying. We are all amateurs.

Life is creative, exciting, and wondrous to behold. It had always been that way to Lynda Bethea. She loved her family, she loved her work, she loved Africa. It wasn't death on her mind last week as Ralph and Lynda drove to Rift Valley Academy to pick up their children. She had too much living to do to let her mind dwell on death in the African night.

I might confess to a most difficult time in writing those words. Old files were opened, books reviewed and old times re-lived. What can you say to express how you really feel? I felt this way when Nate Saint, Bill Elliott, and three other missionaries died under Auca spears in Ecuador. And again when Bill Wallace of China died at the hands of Communist troops, his faith ablaze, sealing his testimony with his own blood.

There were so many: Wycliffe Translators, Navigators, American Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists,

and many other groups. I've been in a half-dozen foreign cemeteries and read the inspiring inscriptions of men, women, and children who died a long way from home. It struck our own family in 1964, and in *Passport to Missions*, I tried again to express it:

"Our baby was born but lived only a few hours. The missionary doctor did all he could, but finally the life of the little one expired. The numbness of the moment was upon us. We knew not where to turn, nor what to do. Parents, loved ones and dear friends were 10,000 miles away. Then, God's grace that is always sufficient became such a vital part of our life.

"Missionary friends began to come, some driving all night to get there. National pastors and people were concerned and came to pray and comfort. A friend had a little box made and lined with white silk for the coffin. The Presbyterian Mission had the only foreigners' cemetery in the area, and these dear friends provided the burial site and wept with us. A fellow missionary read the Scripture, another spoke the words of comfort, and then in a lonely corner of the cemetery we buried part of us. Later, a simple monument would be added. I could not help but think of all the monuments that had been erected across Asia, or Africa, or South

America, and the tears that had watered the sod.

"Some week later, a dear lady of the Woman's Missionary Union sent us a card of sympathy. There was a Scripture verse from Job, declaring that 'He gives songs in the night.' In that long night through which we had passed, we could still praise him who causes us to rejoice even in the darkest night."

To Ralph and those precious children, what do you say? The "Song in the Night," is it still there? "Death, where is thy sting. O grave where is thy victory?" Or the long list of the faithful in Hebrews 11 and the writer adds, "Of whom, the world was not worthy."

Somewhere I firmly believe there is another voice who speaks — "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" and in the background the martyrs of old lead the chorus of Amens. Annie Johnson Flint said it well:

His lamp am I.

To shine where He shall say:

And lamps are not for sunny rooms,

Nor for the light of day;

But for dark places of the earth,

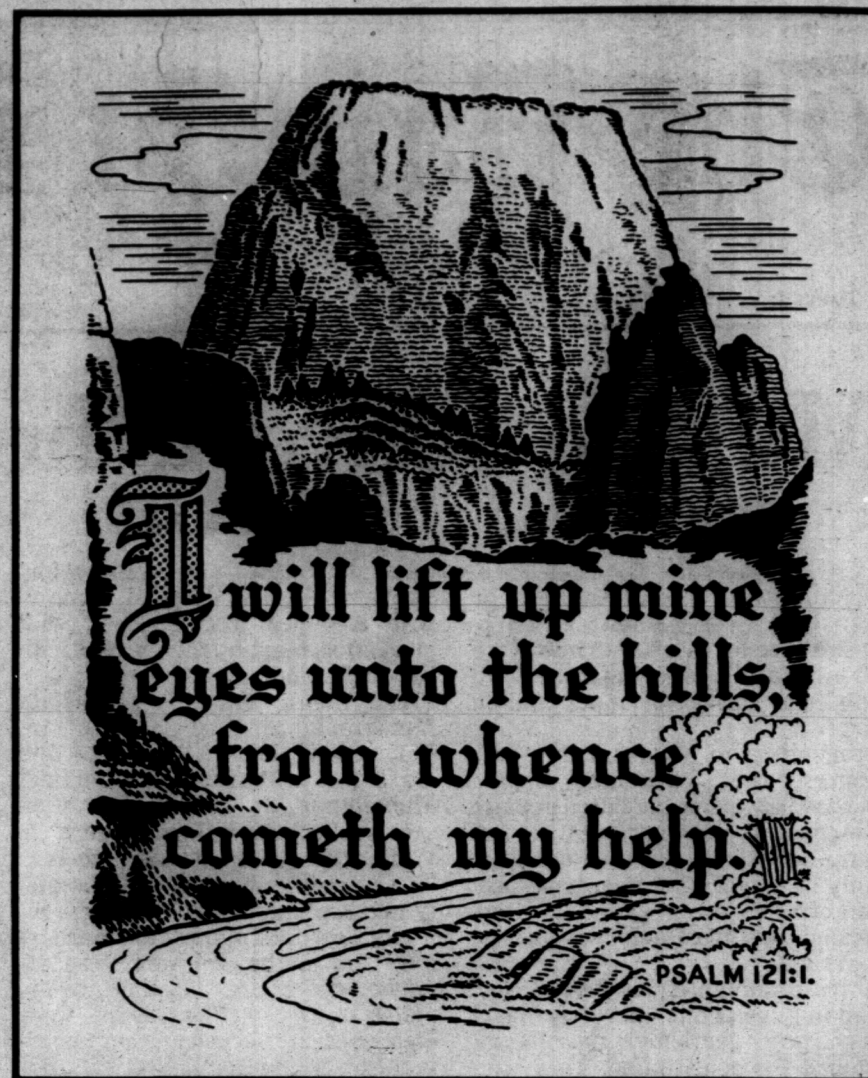
Where shame and crime and wrong

have been . . .

So may I shine — His life the

flame —

That men may glorify His name.



"Driven out" claims are unfounded, says president

ATLANTA (BP) — Claims by leaders of the moderate group known as The Baptist Fellowship that they are being "driven out" of the Southern Baptist Convention are unfounded, said SBC President Morris Chapman.

Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, said "members of the group (The Fellowship) are choosing to disassociate themselves from the majority of Southern Baptists. They have no one to blame but themselves. They have chosen to do this."

The SBC president said convention moderates have "absolutely not" been disenfranchised, but those in The Fellowship have chosen to "disassociate themselves" from the denomination. Chapman's comments came during an interview with *The Christian Index*, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Reports that a task force of The Fellowship had proposed the establishment of a World Missions Center which would commission missionaries prompted Chapman to say such moves would be "in direct competition with the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Missions Boards. I think," said Chapman, "that the vast majority of Southern Baptists will lend no support to such a movement."

"The Baptist Fellowship and others of similar persuasion remind me of the little boy who went to the carnival with his best friend. When down to his last dime, he was pressured by his friend to ride the merry-go-round.

When they finished the ride, the boy said to his friend: 'I have spent my last dime, we have gone 'round and 'round. I got off where I got on, and I ain't been nowhere.' That is," said Chapman, "when all is said and done, I believe their efforts will come to an uneventful end."

The call for WMU participation also elicited Chapman's response.

"The WMU has always been a vital part of Southern Baptist missions," He said he would be "extremely surprised and greatly saddened" if the WMU ever considered "opening the door to participate with an organization such as The Baptist Fellowship. I certainly pray that they will continue their historic support of the two Southern Baptist mission boards. I believe the hearts of Southern Baptist women beat strongly for Southern Baptist missions," he said.

Chapman said he also disagreed with FMB President R. Keith Park's comment that the proposed missions center was the "inevitable result" of the SBC conflict. He said the move was "a calculated giant step away from mainstream Southern Baptists."

He also said the establishment of such a center "does not compare whatsoever with a local church's mission projects."

The Fellowship is "choosing to go their own, separate way," said Chapman, "and their heart's desire is to have their own denomination when it seems to be feasible."

The fate of civilization is like needlework. You can take it up and worry about it at odd moments. — Frank Sullivan

Guest opinion . . .

'I was afraid . . . and I hid myself'

By Robert M. Parham

Adam and Eve had sinned. They had broken God's command not to eat of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden. When they heard the Lord God "walking in the cool of the day," Adam and Eve became afraid and hid themselves "among the trees of the garden."

The experience of Adam and Eve is our experience. Like them, our fallenness causes us to experience fear and to engage in deception. Like Adam and Eve, we know that fear and deception only compound our problems.

Nowhere in our society is the problem of fear and deception more evident than when it is mixed with alcoholic beverages. The toxic tonic which is formed from alcohol and fallenness poisons human life at so many points across the continuum of life.

At the individual level, drinking masks problems. Fear of failure or success, fear of social rejection or ridicule, fear of family disintegration or work-place conflict lead many peo-

ple to cover up their problems with the use of alcohol.

Within our churches, some members are unable to reconcile the social situations which pressure them into social drinking and the church's teachings that alcohol consumption is sin. Church members may hide their drinking problems for fear of being condemned. Many churches offer few, if any, opportunities for people with drinking difficulties to break the secrecy and to tell the truth about their problems.

At the societal level, the alcohol industry fears that the truth about its product will sharply reduce profits. The industry hides the truth about health and safety consequences behind a \$2 billion annual advertising and promotional effort which glamorizes drinking. The alcohol industry contributes to drinking problems with its lack of truth telling about the ill-effects of alcohol such as birth defects, car crashes, and economic destruction.

Again and again, we see that

alcohol problems cause fear and deception. Conversely, fear and deception cause alcohol problems.

Like Adam, we, too, need to learn the truth that problems can never be solved with fear and cover-ups. The Bible teaches us that hiding the truth is never a solution. The earliest pages of Scripture record how Adam responded when faced with a problem: He became afraid and hid himself. Our behavior often resembles his, especially when it is related to alcohol and/or chemical dependency.

The Bible teaches us that the truth can set us free (John 8:32). Truth can free us from the need to mask problems, to experience guilt about drinking difficulties, and to believe that drinking and sex, social and athletic success go together.

The Bible also teaches us that we "can do all things in him who strengthens" us (Phil. 4:13).

Parham is an associate director, Christian Life Commission, SBC.

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Kenya missionary beaten, killed by highway robbers

By Craig Bird

KIJABE, Kenya (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Lynda Bethea, 42, was killed and her husband, Ralph, 43, was injured March 27 when they were attacked by robbers on a Kenya highway.

Kenyan police reportedly have four suspects in custody.

In a cruel parody of the Good Samaritan story, the missionary couple stopped their car to assist a man sprawled across a rural road near Kijabe, Kenya, around 11 p.m. But as Bethea leaned over the man to see what was wrong, he looked into the barrel of a pistol. At least three other men emerged from the brush and punctured the left rear tire of the car before taking all of Bethea's money and disappearing into the darkness.

Before Bethea could get the tire changed, the masked men returned and demanded more money. When they attacked her husband, Mrs. Bethea came to his aid and was beaten repeatedly and savagely with iron bars. She died at the scene from severe head injuries.

"I tried to fight them off but they just kept coming, they just kept coming," Bethea later told Kenyan police in a barely audible whisper. "I gave them all the money I had but then they started beating my wife . . . We asked them for the love of Jesus to go away and Lynda begged them to stop hitting us . . . She kept telling them, 'We have children' . . . But they just kept beating her."

Bethea suffered several cracked ribs, injuries to his left shoulder, and cuts and bruises over his face and head. His face and hands were badly swollen.



Lynda Bethea

When the men finally fled, two cars passed the bloodied couple without stopping. But the second driver went to the police station in Kijabe and returned with officers.

The attack took place less than a mile from the Betheas' intended destination, Rift Valley Academy, about 45 miles northwest of Nairobi. They had planned to spend the night before taking their two older sons, Ralph III, 17, a junior at the missionary boarding school, and Joshua, 13, an eighth-grader, to their home in Mombasa for a month-long Easter break.

Two other children, Luke, age 12, and Lizette, 9, had remained in Mombasa with friends.

School officials contacted mis-

sionaries and before daylight 10 missionaries and Kenyan Baptists had gathered at the school to be with Bethea as others came throughout the day from across Kenya.

Kijabe police notified Nairobi police headquarters and officers worked through the pre-dawn hours securing the murder scene and using dogs to track the gang. About 100 yards away they found a smoldering campfire and a pair of partially burned shoes. They described it as an apparent attempt to throw police dogs off the scent. But by midmorning March 28 the suspects were in custody.

A U.S. Embassy representative arrived at Rift Valley Academy about an hour after being notified of the incident and promised to do everything in the embassy's power to help.

Mrs. Bethea, of Jackson, befriended hundreds of Southern Baptist volunteers who made her home headquarters for numerous evangelistic crusades in Mombasa. The Betheas helped lead in the evangelization of the Mombasa area, where the gospel has found remarkable acceptance recently among once-hostile Muslims.

"One of the missionaries (saw) Ralph and Lynda yesterday and said he had never seen her more relaxed and happy," said Jimmy Draper March 28.

Draper, who spoke to Bethea and other missionaries by phone after the attack, is pastor of First Church in Euless, Texas, and a former Southern Baptist Convention president. He is a close friend of the Betheas and worked with them in several Kenya evangelism projects.

(See **BETHEA** on page 5)

Journeyman Darla Lovell found dead in Uganda

By Mary E. Speidel

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP) — Southern Baptist journeyman Darla Lovell, 23, was found dead in her home in Kampala, Uganda, March 24. Lovell apparently died in her sleep of natural causes, but an autopsy was being performed, said Bertie Paul, a missionary in Kampala.

Lovell, from Effingham, Ill., was a secretarial assistant in the Southern Baptist mission office in Kampala. She lived next-door to Mrs. Paul and her husband, Wayne, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Uganda.

Lovell's interest in missions grew out of her involvement in missions education organizations at her home church, First Baptist Church of Effingham. As a member of Acteens, a mission organization for teen-age girls, she was a camp counselor and a volunteer in Ohio and Oklahoma

with Acteens Activators, a home missions program for Acteens sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Before going to Uganda, Lovell was in the same journeyman training class as Mary Anna Gilbert, a Southern Baptist teacher who was killed in the Oct. 2, 1990, crash of a hijacked Chinese jetliner in Guangzhou, China.

Born in Charleston, Ill., Lovell grew up in Effingham. She also lived in Oakdale, Ill., while growing up. She received the bachelor of science degree in business education from Southwest Baptist University.

Lovell is survived by her parents, a brother, a sister, and her grandparents.

Speidel writes for FMB.

MBCB employs counsel

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee has employed John Voss, 42, of Purvis as a half-time staff counsel.



Voss

Voss, pastor of Oakland Grove Church, Laurel, and an attorney, began work April 1. He will also work half time for the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, reporting to Kent Strum, executive director.

Said Strum, "We're delighted we've found a way to cooperate that will help all of the organizations. Continuity of services through our panorama of activities is extremely desirable."

At the convention board, Voss will report directly to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer. He will do legal consultation for the convention board, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, and the Christian Action Commission, all of whom will contribute toward the half-time salary.

Voss, a Purvis native, is a graduate of the University of Mississippi. He earned a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law and a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

In ministry, prior to his work at Oakland Grove, Voss was pastor of Calvary Church, Canton, 1980-81, and Good Hope Church, Purvis, 1983-1990.

In law, he worked for Waller Fox, Lacy and Gowan in Jackson, 1972-73. And he was legal counsel for the governor's Division of Comprehensive Health, 1973-74, and for the Mississippi Hospital Association, 1974-78. Voss was in private law practice in Jackson and Purvis, 1981-87, and he was staff attorney for Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, 1987-1990.

In other business the Executive Committee approved replacing Eugene Dobbs on the convention board with Curtis Guess of Pine Grove Church, Union, for Neshoba County. Dobbs left the convention board to join its staff as Administrative Assistant for Ministry.

Jakarta church destroyed

By Regina Morgan

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP) — A mob of about 400 Indonesian villagers attacked and destroyed the meeting place of a small Baptist congregation in a Jakarta housing complex March 10.

Attackers used sledgehammers and lead pipes to break through the tile roof and batter down walls of the building before a scheduled service. They also damaged benches, tables, and chairs used for children's Sunday School classes.

"Praise the Lord! No one was there at the time," said Surbakti, the deacon who leads weekly worship services. "The attackers had murder in mind."

Church members who normally come early to set up for services had not arrived when the attack occurred. When Siregar, the property owner and a member of the church, arrived on his motor scooter, he searched frantically for a familiar face in the hostile crowd. Seeing none, he fled for his life. Not knowing the building was empty, he feared everyone inside had been killed.

"They were there to kill," Siregar asserted. "I don't doubt that they would have killed me if they had

realized who I was. Maybe they didn't recognize me because I had on my motor scooter helmet."

The mob also damaged property of other Christians in the area, set a motor scooter on fire, battered a military police major's automobile and smashed windows at the nearby home of a contractor.

Muslim neighbors have issued threats and warnings during the year the 35-member Baptist congregation has met in Jakarta's Pondok Ungu complex. Concerned about unrest caused by the Baptist meetings, local officials had suggested they be discontinued. But Baptist families who moved into the new housing area wanted to worship in their own neighborhood.

Attackers reportedly came from surrounding villages, not from the housing development. Local and military police are investigating the incident.

Surbakti said church members hope the incident will strengthen the faith of Christians in the area who face an uncertain future.

Morgan is press representative for Southern Baptist missionaries in Indonesia.

CLC splits over school-prayer

By Greg Warner

A new federal prayer-in-schools proposal has exposed division between the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and its staff over how best to "return God to the classroom."

Many CLC trustees believe the agency should find a way to support mandated prayer in public schools. But CLC Executive Director Richard Land and General Counsel Michael Whitehead, say such legislation is unconstitutional.

A constitutional amendment to reinstate voluntary prayer in public schools has been proposed in Congress by Bill Dannemeyer (R-Calif.), but CLC lobbyists give the bill little chance of passage. Land and Whitehead prefer legislation already in force that guarantees students equal access to school facilities for religious purposes.

Land surfaced the school-prayer issue during the March 7-8 meeting of

CLC trustees. To "tamper with the Constitution" by requiring prayer in schools, he said, would present Christians with a dilemma.

"Either we're going to have to try to set up a non-sectarian prayer, which will be largely open to abuse or meaningless," he said, "or we're going to have to try to set up a Christian prayer, which will violate the constitutional rights of the people who aren't Christians, or we're going to do it on a rotating basis."

Land, who said the CLC neither supports nor opposes Dannemeyer's amendment, said, "There is real division among Southern Baptist conservatives on the prayer issue." But some trustees disagreed.

"It seems we're having a one-sided, one-hour debate here," said trustee Gary Crum after Land and Whitehead presented their views. "The question I have is how can we teach (students)

moral values without teaching them about God?" said Crum, an ethics professor at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

However, few trustees responded to Land's presentation, which came toward the end of the meeting in Nashville, Tenn. "It really took us all by surprise," said trustee Skeet Workman of Lubbock, Texas. "A lot of us didn't say anything."

As a member of the SBC resolutions committee in 1982, Workman argued successfully for an SBC endorsement of Ronald Reagan's school-prayer amendment. In light of that 1982 resolution, Workman said she hopes Land will not oppose the new school-prayer proposal. She said she has written Land and asked him to clarify his position.

Workman said that SBC conservatives (See **CLC** on page 5)

BSSB, Southwestern share debt to J. B. Gambrell

By Matthew Brady & Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The common legacy of Southwestern Seminary and the Sunday School Board stands in this era of controversy — the embattled president of the SSB said during the seminary's 83rd annual Founders Day chapel March 14.

Speaking about the life of Southern Baptist pioneer J.B. Gambrell, who was instrumental in the creation of both the SSB and Southwestern Seminary, Lloyd Elder told students, faculty, and guests they "need to be characterized today by a steadiness and readiness in the service of Jesus Christ."

Elder, who, amid a growing controversy, reached an agreement with SSB trustees in January to retire in January 1992 or 30 days after a successor is named, received a standing ovation from the chapel audience when he was introduced by Southwestern President Russell Dilday.

Describing Gambrell as the "common legacy between Southwestern and the SSB, Elder said Gambrell 'understood and expounded great principles undergirding our Baptist work.' Elder said Gambrell is noted by historians as a 'Baptist commoner. His adult life was spent for others.'"

As editor of the Baptist Record, newsjournal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, president of Mercer University, and superintendent of missions in Texas, Gambrell exerted tremendous influence in the founding of both the SSB and Southwestern Seminary, Elder said.

Gambrell, along with other influential Texas Baptists purchased the Baptist Standard newspaper from fundamentalist J. Frank Norris. Gambrell was editor of the paper from 1910 to 1914, when he became general secretary of the newly-consolidated Baptist General Convention of Texas.

According to Elder, Gambrell, as editor of the Baptist Record, led a group opposed to creating the Sunday School Board, while J.M. Frost of Virginia led a group in favor of the board. That debate led to the SSB's formation during a time Elder described as "seething denominational conflict."

However, Elder said Frost and Gambrell became "two spiritual giants on opposing sides working toward resolution of differences and

the convention picked up that spirit."

The key to ending the controversy between Frost and Gambrell, according to Elder, was each man's willingness to compromise. Gambrell agreed to give the new publishing board a chance to prove itself, while Frost agreed not to push the board's literature on the churches.

"Our legacy is more than bricks and mortar and budget and sizes but it has to do with the gospel itself and the gospel's penetration," Elder said.

"Our legacy as stated by Gambrell and Frost remains and challenges us during this era of controversy," Elder said. "Fullest freedom of choice among Christ's free men and fair consideration of our great common work as a denomination."

"Will we today hear afresh and anew, and accept such a common legacy of challenge?" Elder asked.

Just as Gambrell was instrumental in the formation of the SSB, Elder said Gambrell also became a force in the founding of Southwestern Seminary on March 14, 1908, when the school was chartered with the state of Texas. Two months later Gambrell was elected president of the seminary's board of trustees.

During the last four years of his life, Gambrell was on Southwestern's faculty teaching ecclesiology. He also was president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the same time.

Southwestern's legacy continues not in its financial or physical resources but rather "in its faculty and administration, devoted to the authority of Scripture, the work of evangelism and ministry and kingdom service under the lordship of Jesus Christ," Elder said.

Brady and Collins write for Southwestern.

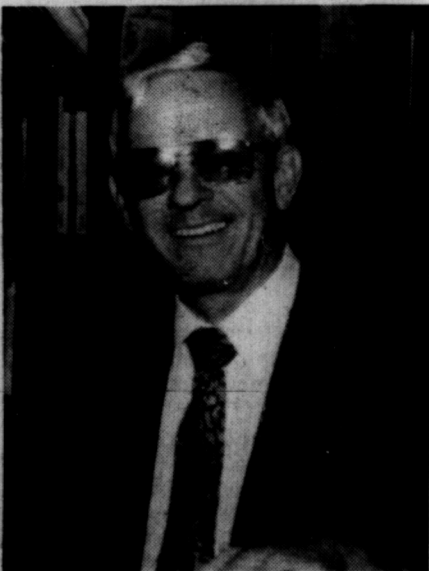
You can't hold a man down without staying down with him. — Booker T. Washington

Nobody knows what news is important until a hundred years afterwards. — Friedrich Nietzsche

All that is required for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.

Make more friends. Almost anyone will make a better friend than enemy.

Banquet will honor Sumner



John Sumner

John F. Sumner Jr. has served for the past 15 years as Baptist Student Union director at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville. He has announced his retirement, to become effective June 30, 1991.

A retirement banquet is being planned in Sumner's honor to be held April 20 at 7 p.m. at the Jones County Junior College Cafeteria, according to Frank Porter, chairman, Banquet Arrangements Committee. Tickets cost \$8 and may be purchased at the BSU or by writing Frank Porter, BSU, JCJC, Ellisville, MS 39437. (Make check payable to BSU-JCJC and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. For more information about the banquet call the BSU at 477-3973. Tickets must be purchased by April 10.)

An interview with Dellanna O'Brien

By Anne W. McWilliams

Dellanna O'Brien, who in 1989 succeeded Carolyn Weatherford as executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, was in Jackson March 18 and 19. For the first time guest speaker at the annual meeting of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, she addressed each of four sessions. On Monday morning, she visited the offices of the Baptist Record, where this interview took place.

Q: What is your biggest dream for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC?

A: I want to see every girl, woman, and preschooler in Woman's Missionary Union and its organizations, because that will lead to their commitment to and involvement in missions. That would be a step toward our goal that every single person would hear about Christ.

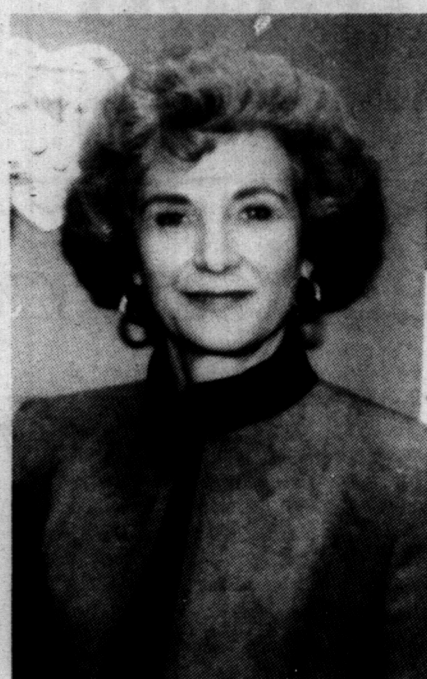
The diminutive Dellanna was wearing a blue suit that matched her eyes.

Q: Do you feel that the SBC controversy is affecting missions and missionaries? If so, how?

A: If it doesn't affect the number of missionaries, it does have an impact on the missionaries' feelings. It gives them an unsettled feeling about their future and the future of the denomination itself. However, recent figures do show a decline in numbers, too. The Bold Mission Thrust goals are not being met. Baptists have always been a missionary people, and the number of short-term volunteers is growing. But the long-term commitment — for career missions — is being affected.

Q: Do you, in spite of this, still view the future of Woman's Missionary Union with excitement?

A: Yes. I travel all over and see women, who are members of WMU now, excited about missions. You have



O'Brien

to be buoyed up! Their commitment to missions will continue. Especially those who as children grew up in these mission organizations are firmly committed to missions.

I hear many who are missionaries saying that they made their commitment to missions when they were RAs or GAs or Mission Friends.

Q: What about your own call to missions? Did it come while you were a GA?

A: No, but having been a GA made it easier for me to do so later. Bill and I met while we were students at Hardin-Simmons University. We were already married and in seminary when we answered God's call to missions.

Dellanna and Bill O'Brien were missionaries in Indonesia, 1963-71. Her roles have included wife, mother, educator, and businesswoman; she earned a doctorate in education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Until recently he was executive vice president, Foreign Mission Board, SBC; he now is on the staff of Samford University. They are members of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham.

Q: What has been your biggest disappointment since becoming executive director of WMU?

A: That we face challenges which ask us to do our best — and we have to put them aside to deal with the controversy. It makes me sad — and yes, angry. Another disappointment has been in seeing people "take sides."

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A: The women's spirit of cooperation, under our Woman's Missionary Union motto, "Laborers Together With God."

Q: Do you have a particular message for the Baptist women of Mississippi?

A: I would like to see women reach out and pull in more women and to show them that our work is vibrant, interesting, and relevant to life today — not just for the sake of adding more members, but as a fulfillment of the command to go and tell.

The secret of attracting women to a missions organization is through mission action — not just teaching them about missions, but by getting them involved. They'll learn about missions by doing.

Most women want to make a difference in their world. If we can show them how they can do that through a missions organization, then missions will blossom.

Boycott hits Johnson, Pfizer

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — Christian Leaders for Responsible Television, a coalition whose strategy of economic pressure proved successful the last two years, has called for a one-year boycott of two of the leading advertising sponsors of sex, violence, and profanity on prime-time television.

The executive committee of CLeaR-TV recently voted to begin a boycott of S.C. Johnson and Son Inc. and Pfizer Inc. The boycott went into effect on March 15. Both companies were among the leading advertisers of objectionable programming during the 1990 fall sweeps monitoring period on network television, according to CLeaR-TV.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, is a member of the executive committee of CLeaR-TV.

"Clearly, the public airwaves are a public trust," Land said. "These two companies have managed to stand out in both their sponsorship of programs which we consider to contain excessive and/or gratuitous sex, violence, and profanity, and in their unresponsiveness to our concerns about that sponsorship."

"They have left us no recourse but to encourage our constituencies to express their displeasure through the constitutional right to not use their products."

Johnson and Pfizer were informed twice before the monitoring period about the concerns of CLeaR-TV and

the possibility of a boycott. Earlier this year, both companies were invited more than once to meet with CLeaR-TV officials in order to avoid a boycott. Neither company responded to two invitations, according to CLeaR-TV.

Boycotts called for by CLeaR-TV produced impressive results last year. The coalition lifted a boycott of The Clorox Corporation in early 1990 when the company promised to reduce its sponsorship of offensive programming. The action came nine months after the boycott began in July 1989. The Mennen Co., another advertiser boycotted at the same time, did not relent. A staff member of the American Family Association, which monitors television programming, said that the boycott apparently had an impact because Mennen is no longer a leader in advertising on objectionable programs.

A CLeaR-TV boycott begun in 1990 resulted in a quick change of policy by Burger King.

Johnson produces such items as Agree shampoo, Curel skin lotion, Edge shaving cream, Enhance perfume, Halsa shampoo, L'envie perfume, Skintastic body gel, Soft Sense lotion, Bravo wax, Brite floor wax, Carnu polish, Clean and Clear wax, Duster Plus cleaner, Favor polish, Fumigator, Future floor coating, Glade air freshener, Glo Coat floor coating, Glory rug cleaner, J-Wax, Johnson Wax, Klear floor coating, Off

insect repellent, Pledge wax, Pride wax, Raid insecticide, Rain Barrel fabric softener, Shout stain remover, and Step Saver cleaner. The address is Chairman Samuel C. Johnson, S.C. Johnson and Son Inc., 1525 Howe St., Racine, WI 53403.

Products of Pfizer include Airspun Powder Essence mousse, Barbasol shaving cream, Ben-Gay rub, Chateau fragrance, Coty perfumes, Desitin skin products, Emraude perfume, Exclamation perfume, Iron cologne, Lady Stetson cologne, Nuance perfume, Plax mouthwash, Preferred Stock cologne, Shape 'n Shadow eye kit, Sophia perfume, Stetson cologne, TZ-3 athlete's foot ointment, Unisom, and Visine eye drops. The address is Chairman E.T. Pratt Jr., Pfizer Inc., 235 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10017.

Strode is director of media and news information, Washington office, CLC.

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Grieving missionaries sing Easter hymns on Kenyan mountaintop

By Craig Bird

LIMURU, Kenya (BP) — More than 200 friends of Lynda Bethea and her family huddled on a cold, dreary mountaintop on Good Friday.

They clutched Bibles and prayed and, dressed in their best clothes, looked like most American Christians gathered for an Easter worship service.

But their eyes reflected uncertainty and fear. There was a difference in their voices as they sang the traditional hymns. The words and music of "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art" were the same. But there were no smiles and joyful "amens," no swelling volume of celebration.

Mrs. Bethea — wife and mother to the five people seated on the front row, friend to the other missionaries and Kenyan Baptists who overflowed the auditorium — had been dead a little more than 36 hours.

Her murder during a roadside robbery had saddened the Christian community. The brutality of the killing threatened to break the spirit of the group.

"This is a service of mourning, one of the darkest days of our lives," missionary Vance Kirkpatrick told the hushed gathering at Brackenhurst Baptist International Conference Center. "It's one of the darkest days any of us has ever known. Yet we also know that 2000 years ago this same day was the darkest day man has ever known on the face of the earth. Because that Friday our Savior died. It seemed as though evil and Satan had disrupted creation and had gained the upper hand."

"Today we feel much the same. All that that little group of believers had trusted, all they were sure of, had fallen apart. We recoil in horror as if, once again, everything is out of control."

"But, deep within us — because we have known years of God's love — we acknowledge we are called to rejoice. But we rejoice in pain and sorrow and tears. Death took one who took care of the little details, often unnoticed and unrewarded, one that ministered to us and one we loved."

"As family we all feel this tearing our soul. Yet deep down each of us here has met the Lord Christ. We know there can be peace and victory. We sing these songs and we mean them. We can say a few words but the words are meaningless until the Lord pours his peace over us."

His prayer voiced a common feeling: "There are doubts and questions and fears. We want to ask, 'Why?'"

Missionary Janie Basham, a co-worker in Mombasa with Mrs. Bethea, spoke of the Bible study she led a week before her death. "Each of us shared our testimony and for some of the Kenyan ladies it was the first time they had publicly verbalized their faith," Basham said.

"Lynda told how she was saved at age 11 and went to church faithfully

even though her parents didn't go, how in nursing school she met a fellow student who showed her how to grow in her Christian commitment, and how a young man she met about the same time named Ralph Bethea had had a huge impact on her spiritual life. But she was the first to feel the call to be a missionary And Lynda told us how she knew Kenya was where God wanted them to work and raise their children. Lynda knew without a doubt this is where she should be and we know without a doubt where she is now. That doesn't lessen the pain, but because our Lord is risen, Lynda is risen with him."

Bethea requested that the memorial service sermon be based on Matthew 28:19-20, the verses known as "The Great Commission" and the Scripture reference his wife had inscribed inside his wedding ring.

Missionary John Witte reminded everyone that when Jesus sent his followers "to all nations" to spread Christianity, "he sent them in the full knowledge that hundreds of thousands of his disciples would die in fulfilling that command. He said these words with the complete knowledge that Lynda Bethea would die on a rural roadside in Kenya."

"Didn't he understand the pain her death would cause us?" Witte asked. "Oh yes, he understands. Just as he understood the cries of (the one) he loved the best as he hung on that cross 2,000 years ago."

Witte then led the congregation in repeating the verses from Matthew to reaffirm a commitment to continue "putting our lives on the line to fulfill this commandment of Jesus Christ" no matter what the risk.

The emotional climax of the morning came when Bethea, his arm in a sling and his face swollen and bruised, was helped to his feet and stood in front of the crowd with his three sons and daughter around him. As a pounding rain drowned some of his whispered words, Bethea thanked the people for their prayers "that went up and brought the presence of God back into my life."

"These past couple of days have been the darkest of my life. But I have learned something about how the love of God also cures pain," he said.

Then the family members took turns reading verses from Psalm 23 from Mrs. Bethea's Bible.

The service closed with a unison singing of "How Great Thou Art" in English and Swahili before Arthur Kinyanjui, chairman of the Baptist Convention of Kenya, brought condolences from Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. Moi sent word of his sorrow and regret at what had happened.

And the rain, although it didn't stop completely, changed from a downpour to a drizzle as people left the mountaintop to return to their tasks in Kenya.

Bird writes for FMB.

BETHEA

From page 3

"She was just a wonderful missionary wife," Draper said. "She adapted well to not complaining and just putting up with whatever Ralph was doing and she was enthusiastic about it. We've been with them in a lot of different situations. It was typical of Ralph to stop (the car). He could have driven around that man in the road. That would be the normal procedure, but knowing his heart he stopped to help, and knowing Lynda it was like her to get out and try to help. That was the way they lived."

Asked why the Betheas have met with such evangelistic success, Draper credited their "incredible optimism. They just believed people could be saved. If a place was hard they just believed there were more prospects And then there was a quality that very few people have, just a willingness to be reckless and trust God."

A memorial service was scheduled

for March 29 at Brackenhurst Baptist International Conference Center, located between Nairobi and Kijabe. Bethea requested an African choir to sing some of his wife's favorite songs.

His parents, Ralph and Lizette Bethea, former Southern Baptist missionaries to Kenya, Tanzania, Indonesia, and India, live in Claremore, Okla. Bethea's brother, James Bethea, is a missionary to Indonesia.

Mrs. Bethea was the 13th member of a Southern Baptist missionary family to die as a victim of murder or other hostile action since the Foreign Mission Board started sending missionaries overseas in 1845.

Funeral plans in the United States were incomplete. Draper, who is working with the Bethea family on arrangements, said a memorial service will be held at First Church in Tulsa from 1979-82, pastor of South Tulsa Church from 1982-83 and executive director of Love America in Edwards, Miss., from 1983 until their missionary appointment in 1984.

was to be transported from Kenya. Born in Jackson, Mrs. Bethea, the former Lynda Sharp, received the bachelor of science degree from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing in Jackson. She also attended the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

She married Bethea in 1970. They worked as short-term missionaries in Kenya with the Africa Inland Mission from 1973-74. She also worked as a nurse in Louisville, Ky., Seymour, Ind., and at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson while her husband was attending seminary and serving various churches. He was assistant pastor of First Church in Tulsa from 1979-82, pastor of South Tulsa Church from 1982-83 and executive director of Love America in Edwards, Miss., from 1983 until their missionary appointment in 1984.

Mrs. Bethea's parents are deceased. Besides her husband, she is survived by a brother and her children. Bird writes for HMB.

Baptist Fellowship leaders announce open meeting

By Joe H. Tuten

Marvin Bond, Starkville; Susan Paynter, Jackson; Mary Jane Nethery, Tupelo; Tom Sims, Richton; and I have served on the Interim Steering Committee of The Baptist Fellowship since the convention was held in Atlanta last August. That convocation was attended by 3,000 Southern Baptist people from across the nation.

The Interim Steering Committee, composed of 70 people, has met three times. These meetings have been marked by looking to the future and not to the past. Many ideas, suggestions, and hopes have surfaced and have been discussed openly and freely. Some sense of direction for shared Christian witness gradually has developed that would invite the interest and participation of all people to whom our Baptist heritage of freedom of each individual to interpret the Bible for himself or herself is important.

The second convocation will be held

at the Omni Coliseum in Atlanta, May 9-11, beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday and ending at noon on Saturday. There will be no "big name" speakers, no canned music, no resolutions, and no exhibits. One hundred satellite workshop and discussion groups are scheduled for Friday afternoon. This is a serious effort to rediscover grassroots Baptist participation. Persons may call 1-800-262-9974 for pre-registration and to make hotel reservations.

For more information about the work of the Interim Steering Committee and what seems to be developing within this movement, tentatively being called the Baptist Fellowship, there will be an open meeting at the Ramada Coliseum in Jackson on Saturday morning, April 13. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. with coffee and donuts. The open forum will begin at 10:30 a.m. and should close at 12 noon.

Tuten lives in Jackson.

CLC

From page 3

vatives are not divided on school prayer. She and other school-prayer advocates hope to get the SBC to adopt another resolution this year to make Baptist support clear and to require CLC support for the proposed amendment.

Workman said she was contacted by Ed McAteer, a Memphis layman and conservative political activist, about CLC support for the renewed school-prayer push. "He was concerned that Richard (Land) was not going to help Dannemeyer with the amendment," she said.

McAteer, who served as adviser to the 1982 resolutions committee, said he was asked by political allies, whom he declined to name, "to help with Southern Baptists in their lack of cooperation" with Dannemeyer's proposal.

While both Workman and McAteer said they are concerned about Land's opposition, neither would say what conservatives are doing about it.

"I'm waiting to see if some things develop before I do much talking on this," McAteer said. "Hopefully this will work itself out and turn around the right way."

If Land can't be persuaded to change his position, McAteer suggested, the SBC will need "to take a stand" by passing a new school-

prayer resolution in June.

Passage of such a resolution seems likely, since the SBC resolutions committee will be appointed by convention president Morris Chapman, who has advocated a school-prayer amendment in the past. Chapman's speech at the 1982 convention in favor of the school-prayer resolution won the day, Workman recalled.

But Land told the Witness a new resolution would not change his mind. "I can certainly do my best to make clear to Congress how the majority feels on this issue," he said, "but to work aggressively to get out and personally argue for support of the position, that I could not do."

Land said he voted for the 1982 school-prayer resolution but that equal access has since eliminated the need for a school-prayer amendment.

He pointed out CLC trustees have not taken an official position on school prayer. "I serve at the discretion of my trustees," Land said, noting any time the trustees object to his position on an issue "they have the authority to advise me of that."

"I find it very difficult to believe that my commissioners would want to so narrowly subscribe the CLC staff that we could not express our opinions," he said.

Warner, associate editor of the Florida BAPTIST WITNESS, with information from Ray Waddle of the Nashville TENNESSEAN.

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Crosby Church to observe 35th year

Crosby Church in Mississippi Association will observe its 35th anniversary of the present building and the 72nd year of being organized, at the 10:45 a.m. worship service, April 7. A covered dish dinner will follow. Donald O'Quin of Jackson will be

the featured speaker. He is a former pastor of both Crosby Church and Centreville Church.

Special music for the morning will be under the direction of Waylan Owens, pastor.

HMB launches "15,000 Campaign"

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — A campaign to start 15,000 Southern Baptist congregations in the next 10 years was launched by trustees of the Home Mission Board during their spring meeting.

In other action, trustees approved a nationwide "Key Church" concept, voted to phase out the positions for local board members, allocated additional funds from last year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, elected officers and approved minor restructuring for the Atlanta staff, including the addition of four new positions.

The "15,000 Campaign" was suggested by HMB President Larry Lewis and unanimously approved by trustees. It calls for a special emphasis on church starting, with a goal of starting 1,500 new congregations every year for 10 years.

If successful, the campaign would assure that Southern Baptists meet their Bold Mission Thrust goal of having 50,000 churches and missions by the year 2000. Currently there are 43,419 churches and missions affiliated with the convention.

Lewis said reaching this goal will require Southern Baptists to start an average of four congregations per day nationwide. The current average of SBC church starts is slightly more than three per day.

The Key Church concept is similar to a program developed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Details of implementing a nationwide key church emphasis were presented

to state mission directors and state church extension directors during their annual meeting in February.

The strategy calls for enlisting key churches across America which will commit to start five new congregations per year. In many of these churches a staff person, sometimes to be called a minister of missions, would direct the project. Some of these staff positions would be funded jointly by the church, association, state convention, and HMB.

Trustees also dealt with a request from the SBC Executive Committee for a decision on continuing or deleting the role of local trustees. Local trustees were placed on all SBC boards at a time when travel to meetings was less convenient.

The HMB has had 12 local members. Four of those members completed the second of two possible four-year terms on the board with this meeting.

The motion passed as amended, meaning the last of the HMB local trustees will complete their service in 1998 if renominated by the SBC Committee on Nominations. This change in the HMB's articles of incorporation must be approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Trustees also voted to increase the HMB's 1991 budget by \$1.7 million, bringing the total annual budget to \$80.6 million. Primary funding for this increase will come from an overage in 1990 Annie Armstrong gifts and

from monies budgeted last year for projects that were delayed being implemented until this year.

New officers elected are Johnny Jackson, a vocational evangelist from Little Rock, Ark., chairman; Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church in Hixson, Tenn., first vice chairman; Bob Curtis, pastor of Ballwin Church in St. Louis, second vice chairman; Alice Sanders, member of First Church in Bamberg, S.C., secretary; and Linda Principe, member of First Church in Brandenburg, Ky., assistant secretary.

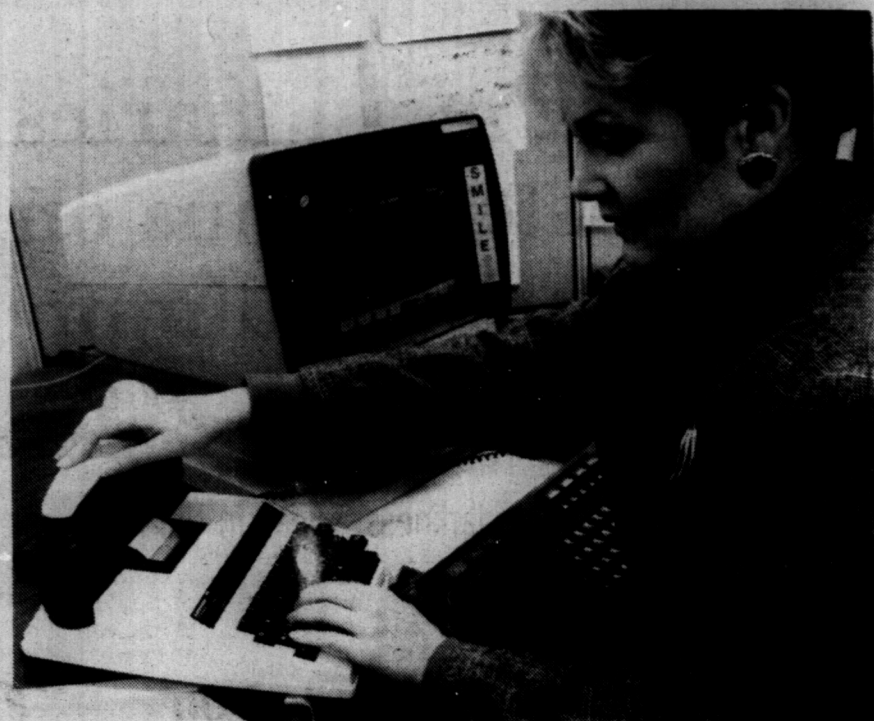
In other action, trustees:

- Elected James Smith to a new position as assistant to the president for partnership relations. Smith, who will retire this summer as president of the Brotherhood Commission, will be a Mission Service Corps volunteer but will receive a travel allowance from the HMB. His duties will include promoting partnership relations between associations, state conventions, and churches.

- Created a position of associate director of evangelism church growth to address the issue of plateaued and declining churches.

- Authorized the HMB executive committee to create a position for a director of planned giving.

- Created a new position for a director of editing services and elected Mary Branson, currently HMB materials editor, to that post. Wingfield writes for HMB.



HMB TAKES ORDERS FROM IMPAIRED — The Home Mission Board is now equipped to receive telephone orders from the hearing-impaired using a TDD telecommunications system. HMB customer services manager Lesley Wetherington demonstrates the new equipment, which allows individuals with similar equipment to communicate with the HMB customer services center. Customers may call the HMB's toll-free number to order HMB materials or to receive general information. The number is 1-800-634-2462. (HMB photo by John Swain)

Churches prepare for back side of Gulf War

By Barbara Denman

MILTON, Fla. (BP) — As triumphant soldiers return from the Persian Gulf War to cheering crowds and excited families, ministers and psychologists are urging churches to prepare for "the back side" of Desert Storm and its aftershocks.

"While hostilities are over, we are in the eye of the storm," said Glen Owens, assistant executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention. "The storm has passed and left us with a calmness and euphoria, but there will be a back side to the storm."

The aftermath of Desert Storm will affect us for years — not months, Christian psychologist Ron Guy of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., told people attending a Desert Storm conference March 9 at First Church of Milton, Fla.

Sponsored by the Florida Baptist Convention, the four-hour session was one of two conferences scheduled to help church leaders minister through the crisis.

Peggy Smith, program coordinator for the Family Service Center at the Pensacola Naval Air Station agreed. "Everyone coming back has changed," she said. "You can't go through something like that and not have scars."

Congregations can help military personnel deal with the trauma they have experienced through support groups and personal ministry, Smith suggested. Marriage enrichment

seminars and parenting classes can assist reunited families.

As the jubilation of those returning from the Persian Gulf is shown through media outlets, other families whose relatives remain may find themselves in an increasing state of stress and depression, said Gary Laird, minister of education at First Church of Milton, Fla.

Much of the information provided during the Desert Storm conference is applicable to other times of crisis, the experts agreed.

"Children are always in crisis, not only in the time of war," said Duane Ortego, preschool/children's minister at First Church of Panama City, Fla.

Fear, relocation, divorce, and the death of a family member are all traumatic experiences for a youngster, Ortego said. But crisis does not always have to be a negative experience, he added. "It can be positive if we meet them where they are and demonstrate to them that life is an educational process."

Ortego gave four guidelines to use when helping children understand life's situations: only answer the question asked; ask probing questions to determine what information the child really wants; get on a child's level; and don't feel like you always need to have an answer.

Denman is public relations director, Florida Baptist Convention.

Study finds five common traits in growing churches

ATLANTA (BP) — Five common traits characterize churches with high baptism rates and growing Sunday Schools, a Southern Baptist evangelism leader says.

Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism with the Home Mission Board, studied 25 growing Southern Baptist churches in a search for common characteristics.

For the study, Ramsey isolated the 30 Southern Baptist churches which baptized more than 100 converts in 1989 and experienced at least a 10 percent increase in average Sunday School attendance over the previous year. He interviewed representatives from 25 of those churches, including 20 on-site visits.

The churches range in size from 102 to 22,832 resident members, with average Sunday School attendance ranging from 60 to 5,558. Their number of baptisms for 1989 ranged from 101 to 547.

Despite diversity of demographics, types of pastors, and worship styles, Ramsey identified five traits common to all the churches he studied.

1. Pastoral vision for growth. "Each of the pastors realized his vision must become the vision of the people for growth to be accomplished," Ramsey said. "When I interviewed lay people I found they shared the same vision and dreams of their pastor. They continually shared this excitement in their neighborhoods, at their workplaces, and in their daily walks with others."

2. High commitment level of leadership. "Every pastor, staff member, and core layperson I interviewed practiced a daily quiet time, gave well above the tithe of their income, witnessed regularly, and placed a higher priority on service to the Lord than on free time, position, or secular employment," Ramsey noted.

3. Exciting worship. "Regardless of the pastor's preaching style, the type of music used, or the length of the service, there is a sense of expectancy, and the services are exciting," Ramsey said. "Visitors are welcomed in different ways, but in every church visitors seemed to know they were welcome and felt free to par-

ticipate in the service."

4. Flexibility and innovation. "Growing churches do not let location, lack of space, condition of facilities, or limited finances blur their vision," he said. "Growing churches provide whatever activities and ministries are needed to make contact with all classes of people. Each church had a deep sense of caring and was people-oriented."

5. Evangelism. Ramsey said he found "a total commitment to evangelism, which expresses itself in one-to-one witnessing and worship services with an invitation carefully planned to call people to commitment. Although growing churches use a variety of equipping methods for evangelism, the pastors always model personal evangelism and challenge laity to share their faith," he said.

"I am convinced that the majority, if not all our churches, can grow if these five characteristics become the norm," Ramsey said. "Some can grow more rapidly and larger than others, but all can grow."

Robert Tilton surprised by television reporter

DALLAS, Tex. (EP) — Robert Tilton, a leading proponent of what detractors call the "health and wealth" gospel, doesn't do interviews, but a reporter from television's "Inside Edition" caught the television evangelist by surprise with a hidden camera.

On an airplane flight from Texas to California (Tilton has homes in each state), the reporter posed as a passenger, and struck up a conversation with Tilton.

To the reporter's observation that Tilton was travelling in first class,

Tilton replied, "I preach prosperity, I live prosperity. I'm not a hypocrite."

Tilton also said he doesn't do interviews because "you don't cast your pearls among swine."

Tilton may have begun to get suspicious when the reporter produced a portable TV/VCR unit to show him a tape of a report about a ministry that allegedly raised money to help homeless people, but did not give the money to the homeless. Tilton said that what the ministry in the tape had done was fraud, and that the leader should go to jail.

When the reporter's face appeared on the tape to tell Tilton that the ministry being profiled was his, the evangelist knew he'd been had. "Are you wired?" he demanded of the reporter. "You got quite an interview."

Tilton accused the interviewer of ambushing him "because I'll get you some ratings, and you can sell more commercials and make some money for your Jews in New York." The reporter said Tilton told him he'd burn in hell for doing the hidden-camera interview.

Senior adults from nine counties to meet

Senior adults from Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Smith associations will meet at Clarke College for the 6th annual "Day of Enrichment." The meeting, sponsored by the Discipleship Training Department of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be held on April 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Horace Kerr, consultant for senior adult work, MBCB, will present an in-depth look at "Involving Senior Adults in Ministry." Clarke Adams, director of the music department at Clarke

College, will have charge of congregational and special music. James Lewis, pastor of Fifteenth Avenue Church, Meridian, will be speaking during the morning session. Lunch will be served.

The afternoon session will feature W. Lowery Compere, retired president of Clarke College, giving dramatic readings of the Psalms as King David.

To make registrations by 2 p.m. on April 8, call M. J. Harden, 483-8915, Clarke College, 683-2086, or Poplar Drive Church, Meridian, 485-5106.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 4, 1991

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



How Often do You Share Your Faith?

by Katherine Webster, Word Processing/Mail File Supervisor, MBCB

How often do you share your faith? That question might be asked by someone hopefully leading a group of Christians to become more actively involved in "soul-winning." Do we not bear some kind of witness day-in and day-out "as we go about"?

It seems to me that as Christians we too often think of "soul-winning" as something you "go out and do" at some designated time. What would happen if we purposed in our hearts to share our faith "as we go about"?

We hinder our witness and let opportunities slip by when we forget the impact our actions, words, attitudes, and choices have upon our circle of influence each day.

Making a planned, deliberate visit to someone who is lost is certainly one of the ways God uses his children to plant seeds—and sometimes see the Holy Spirit reap immediate harvest. Let's also consider some "as you go about" ways to share our faith.

- Send a card, write a letter, or make a phone call. If we make ourselves available to be used of the Lord each day, we can trust him to bring to mind those who need a word of encouragement from us. This is a wonderful way to build a relationship with non-Christians by showing concern and caring at special times of need.

- Be willing to listen. We all love to talk about ourselves, but interested listeners are hard to find.

- Give of your time and energy. Time and energy given to someone with no thought of receiving anything in return miraculously says "I love you" to persons who are lonely, sick, bereaved, down-and-out, and to those who are not.

- Plan conversations to include: . . . something the Lord has done for you recently . . . how your faith has increased because God has seen you through a problem in your life . . . that you are trusting God to see you through even though you cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel.

- Spend time daily with God through Bible study and prayer. God will shine through your life and touch those around you and you will be totally unaware of it.

This conflict was different—not only sons and daughters, but husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and even grandfathers responded to the call to liberate a country overrun by an aggressive tyrant. And with them, our chaplains, God's ministers, performed admirably and we commend them highly.

At a recent Chaplains Conference for Southern Baptist chaplains at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, Huey Perry, director, Chaplaincy Division of the Home Mission Board, gave an exciting report on the ministry conducted by our military chaplains in the Persian Gulf. Due to a strong insistence by allied coalition countries, it was not possible to conduct open worship services in predominantly Moslem and Islamic territories where our chaplains served.

Despite adverse conditions, these dedicated "men and women of God" continuously ministered to

our military personnel with incredible results. We had a total of 194 Southern Baptist chaplains, seven of whom were women, conducting worship services in tents, Bible studies in small cluster groups, perform-

A Ministry in the Sand

by Chaplain Col. Billy J. Jones
USAFR Retired
State Chaplaincy Coordinator

ing personal witnessing through their "ministry of presence," encouraging, lifting morale, providing private counsel, and helping individuals to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior. While final reports are still forthcoming, already we know of thousands who have made a public profession of faith and more than 1,200 known baptisms.

Where does one baptize in the desert? Never underestimate our chaplains' ability to meet the task

at hand. Cooperative efforts of commanders, chaplain services personnel, and volunteers working with our chaplains simply dug holes in the sand, sometimes cementing the sides and bottom. Other times they used a tarp liner, filled with precious water which had been provided for bathing, drinking, and cooking. There were no objections to adding to the "water supply usage" baptizing. While discretion was manifest in this usage, the benefits far outweighed any potential waste. "When the troops moved," said Perry, "they took their baptistry with them." Does this sound familiar for God's people?

Many stories will yet be told about events in the Persian Gulf, but none will be more heartfelt than those coming through chaplaincy ministries. None will be so meaningful as learning about individuals who establish or re-establish a lasting relationship with Jesus.

GROWTH STARTS

Outreach Bible Study/Adult-Youth GrowthStarts Conferences

APRIL 22-25

DISCOVER...How to use Outreach Bible Study materials to reach lost persons in your community.

IDENTIFY...How to use Outreach Bible Study to start new units.

EXPERIENCE...How to begin new classes using the Adult-Youth GrowthStart plan.

WHO IS TO ATTEND? Pastors, ministers of education, Sunday School directors, potential Outreach Bible Study leaders for adults, college and youth.

LOCATION/TIME

April 22—6:30-9:00 p.m.
Clarksdale Baptist Church, Clarksdale; First Baptist Church, Starkville
April 23—6:30-9:00 p.m.
FBC, Cleveland; West Jackson Baptist Church, Tupelo
April 24—9:30-11:30 a.m.
Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville; East End Baptist Church, Columbus
April 25—6:30-9:00 p.m.
North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood; Highland Baptist Church, Meridian

LEADERS...

James Berthelot—Adult Sunday School Consultant, BSSB, Nashville
Keith Williams—Adult Sunday School Consultant, MBCB
Dan Phillips—Adult Sunday School Consultant, BSSB, Nashville
Sam Crouch—Youth Sunday School Curriculum Editor, BSSB, Nashville
Larry Salter—Youth Sunday School Consultant, MBCB
Wayne Edwards—Minister of Education, FBC, Clinton



Please note the beginning time of the conferences. It is different from the time stated in your Baptist Diary.



1990 COOPERATIVE PROGRESS

January 1—December 31, 1990

CP	All	
Gifts	Other	Total
ADAMS		
Bethel	836.00	851.85
Brief Ave	255.64	380.73
Calvary	3,357.05	1,273.48
Cliff Temple	20,682.01	8,624.04
Cloverdale	8,803.41	7,233.06
Cranfield	2,584.93	1,766.68
FBC Natchez	44,073.07	29,189.40
Immanuel	9,818.81	9,650.43
Morgantown	22,817.58	12,616.57
New Hope	850.04	339.41
Parkway	49,139.16	26,476.64
Southern Hills	2,645.39	1,595.45
Springfield	2,530.40	1,285.60
Stanton	6,445.64	3,669.96
Washington	19,400.04	8,295.97
	194,239.17	111,251.27

ALCORN	3,322.92	3,507.34	6,830.26
Antioch	3,671.33	2,464.42	6,135.75
Bethlehem	7,227.65	4,802.74	12,030.39
Calvary	720.00	2,080.00	2,800.00
County Line	287.26	287.26	574.52
Danville	10,006.00	8,503.53	18,509.53
East Corinth	6,764.95	8,866.99	15,631.94
FBC Biggersville	77,376.78	25,349.10	102,725.88
FBC Corinth	7,538.11	3,657.92	11,196.03
Hinkle	3,577.03	2,096.60	5,673.63
Holly	6,130.07	6,464.69	12,594.76
Jacinto	97.77	12.50	110.27
Kemps Chapel	1,072.95	1,256.97	2,329.92
Kendrick	2,836.31	1,755.73	4,592.04
Kosuth First	4,859.20	4,696.87	9,556.07
Liberty Hill	886.00	0.00	886.00
Lone Oak	0.00	152.00	152.00
North Corinth	0.00	2,227.08	2,227.08
Oakland	30,827.28	16,354.05	47,181.33
Ridgecrest	885.00	1,764.08	2,649.08
Rienzi	6,834.75	8,398.07	15,232.82
Shiloh	5,530.98	3,007.69	8,538.67
South Corinth	210.00	2,487.65	2,697.65
Tate Street	61,548.91	48,735.00	110,283.91
Tishomingo Chapel	1,800.38	2,891.33	4,691.71
Tuscumbia	963.55	593.72	1,557.27
Union	2,832.73	985.60	3,818.33
Victory	17.50	0.00	17.50
West Corinth	8,967.77	9,161.25	18,129.02
Wheeler Grove	18,251.30	3,543.83	21,795.13
	273,064.48	176,104.03	449,168.51

ATTALA	20.00	967.59	987.59
Bear Creek	933.00	2,232.00	3,165.00
Bowlin	873.10	611.78	1,484.88
Carson Ridge	479.00	739.00	1,218.00
County Line	2,265.00	2,307.00	4,572.00
Doty Springs	0.00	1,951.89	1,951.89
Ebenezer	670.00	1,470.00	2,140.00
Edgefield	576.43	65.00	641.43
Edith	5,777.55	4,491.00	10,268.55
FBC Kosciusko	68,867.96	46,413.61	115,281.57
Hurricane	498.12	525.47	1,023.59
Jerusalem	1,190.36	935.57	2,125.93
McAdams	6,126.53	9,987.94	16,114.47
McCool	8,762.84	6,848.96	15,611.80
New Hope	0.00	935.17	935.17
New Salem	645.42	550.82	1,196.24
Parkway	10,065.33	22,556.58	32,621.91
Peeler Memorial	220.30	518.30	738.60
Pilgrims Rest	0.00	930.04	930.04
Pleasant Ridge	0.00	35.00	35.00
Providence	6.15	6.15	12.30
Salis	5,206.81	8,822.68	14,029.49
Sand Hill	1,145.77	1,084.03	2,229.80
Second Kosciusko	8,326.63	6,700.50	15,027.13
Springdale	3,335.50	3,622.49	6,957.99
Unity	677.00	60.00	737.00
Williamsville	12,656.00	14,822.90	27,478.90
Yockanookany	1,852.25	3,251.32	5,103.57
Zama	1,046.98	1,177.98	2,224.96
	142,024.03	144,620.77	286,644.80

BENTON-TIPPAH	15,299.00	12,605.08	27,904.08
Ashland	1,703.28	2,906.29	4,609.57
Calvary	75.00	0.00	75.00
Canaan	120.00	297.00	417.00
Faith	961.13	811.22	1,772.35
FBC Hickory Flat	6,153.00	1,299.50	7,452.50
Flat Rock	510.60	763.98	1,274.58
Hamilton	1,510.00	165.00	1,675.00
New Hope	280.23	100.00	380.23
Pine Grove	1,500.00	1,618.00	3,118.00
Pleasant Hill	3,033.00	1,890.00	4,923.00
	31,145.24	22,456.07	53,601.31

BOLIVAR	720.00	1,572.00	2,292.00
Bellevue	4,894.44	5,391.17	10,285.61
Benoit	35,754.82	8,722.27	44,477.09
Calvary	0.00	905.00	905.00
Chinese	1,200.00	595.00	1,795.00
Duncan	6,000.00	11,438.40	17,438.40
FBC Boyle	71,585.08	51,465.65	123,050.73
FBC Cleveland	3,284.38	5,917.36	9,201.74
FBC Rosedale	807.17	1,488.58	2,295.75
FBC Shelby	1,856.68	2,124.34	3,981.02
Gunnison	32,347.09	12,946.35	45,293.44
Immanuel	3,685.42	1,706.53	5,391.95
Interstate	3,239.84	1,759.92	4,999.76
Merigold	7,917.70	4,496.41	12,414.11
Morrison Chapel	2,911.47	4,323.54	7,235.01
Pace	1,797.00	14,092.62	15,889.62
Providence	5,106.36	4,557.89	9,664.25
Shaw	20,192.27	11,939.29	32,131.56
Skene	492.65	443.78	936.43
Southside	2,118.00	1,077.00	3,195.00
Trinity	525.00	263.00	788.00
Waxhaw	6,844.29	4,546.84	11,391.13
Yale Street	213,283.86	151,772.74	365,056.60

CALHOUN	2,983.97	1,802.11	4,786.08
Antioch	3,914.42	4,871.04	8,785.46
Banner	10,320.00	11,651.73	21,971.73
Bethany	12,535.04	7,521.50	20,056.54
Big Creek	1,427.25	3,747.25	5,174.50
Bradford Chapel	1,222.22	251.00	1,473.22
Calvary	1,601.86	1,103.93	2,705.79
College Hill	3,091.00	2,799.48	5,890.48
Concord	22,419.06	9,468.12	31,887.18
Derma	300.00	395.00	695.00
Drivers Flat	0.00	1,046.33	1,046.33
Duncan Hill	3,815.69	2,128.64	5,944.33
Ellard	54,105.27	28,175.08	82,280.35
FBC Bruce	53,038.93	31,825.87	84,864.80
FBC Calhoun City	20,649.42	12,183.28	32,832.70
FBC Vardaman	100.00	600.00	700.00
Loyd	100.00	200.00	300.00
Macedonia	3,374.59	2,246.56	5,621.15
Midway	1,186.20	1,290.81	2,477.01

	CP	All	
	Gifts	Other	Total
Mt Comfort	2,173.03	1,365.83	3,538.86
Mt Moriah	10,714.81	7,546.03	18,260.84
Mt Tabor	100.00	100.00	200.00
New Hope	1,800.93	1,556.17	3,357.10
New Liberty	1,401.76	2,493.21	3,894.97
New Providence	3,453.29	3,250.63	6,703.92
Oak Grove	189.00	492.00	681.00
Old Town	4,623.56	3,203.89	7,827.45
Parker	1,668.31	333.66	2,001.97
Pilgrims Rest	120.00	60.00	180.00
Pittsboro	4,505.98	4,336.96	8,842.94
Pleasant Hill	3,613.97	3,479.13	7,093.10
Pleasant Ridge	.00	955.00	955.00
Poplar Springs	1,127.93	1,310.36	2,438.29
Providence	.00	350.00	350.00
Rocky Branch	877.00	2,486.19	3,363.19
Rocky Mount	1,061.38	966.22	2,027.60
Sabouga	7,766.22	6,016.66	13,782.88
Sarepta	1,716.71	2,248.74	3,965.45
Second Calhoun	640.35	820.00	1,460.35
Shiloh	1,715.06	8,528.27	10,243.33
Spring Hill	2,472.59	1,704.34	4,176.93
Turkey Creek	201.00	439.00	640.00
Victory	.00	200.00	200.00
Westside	4,237.93	2,610.23	6,848.16
	252,365.73	180,160.25	432,525.98

CARROLL	283.48	798.27	1,081.75
Black Hawk	1,201.78	1,976.52	3,178.30
Calvary	26,363.89	12,512.87	38,876.76
Carrollton	1,147.13	582.00	1,729.13
Centerville	183.66	194.79	378.45
Colla	220.00	375.00	595.00
Harmony	4,158.78	2,447.52	6,606.30
Liberty	2,057.00	2,481.00	4,538.00
Malmison	1,803.00	1,016.00	2,819.00
Mt Olive	5,599.05	2,156.46	7,755.51
Mt Pisgah	3,369.18	1,615.01	4,984.19
New Bethel	1,153.11	1,198.19	2,351.30
New Salem	10.00	10.00	20.00
North Carrollton	9,466.67	7,972.24	17,438.91
Providence	2,566.93	2,058.48	4,625.41
Vaiden	10,507.04	4,760.27	15,267.31
Valley Hill	3,270.54	2,296.04	5,566.58
	73,361.24	44,450.66	117,811.90

CHICKASAW	1,307.06	2,148.34	3,455.40
Amity	3,500.04	1,890.80	5,390.84
Arbor Grove	1,454.92	771.70	2,226.62
Bethel	1,846.97	420.00	2,266.97
Carnation	0.00	186.00	186.00
Egypt	13,004.97	4,949.38	17,954.35
FBC Houka	70,285.68	17,038.38	87,324.06
FBC Okotona	49,461.25	7,963.96	57,425.21
Fellowship	0.00	287.00	287.00
McCondy	0.00	250.00	250.00
Mt Olive	0.00	1,681.17	1,681.17
New Prospect	180.00	185.00	365.00
Parkway	9,804.49	2,408.61	12,213.10
Pleasant Grove	1,023.62	932.82	1,956.44
Pleasant Ridge	4,955.58	3,734.50	8,690.08
Schooner Valley	0.00	432.24	432.24
Shiloh	719.00	2,434.00	3,153.00
Van Fleet	2,195.00	285.00	2,480.00
Woodland	137.41	0.00	137.41
	159,875.99	49,042.90	208,918.89

CHOCTAW	23,961.22	7,930.10	31,891.32
Ackerman	300.00	600.00	900.00
Bethlehem	370.39	1,934.70	2,305.09
Blythe Creek	2,246.00	4,546.79	6,792.79
Chester	10,831.11	8,885.51	19,716.62
Cohod	2,481.95	2,402.32	4,884.27
Covenant	0.00	82.00	82.00
Crape Creek	125.00	150.00	275.00
Cross Roads	1,229.96	698.15	1,928.11
Ebenezer	0.00	75.00	75.00
Fellowship	5,361.30	4,659.10	10,020.40
Fentress	570.00	903.40	1,473.40
French Camp	1,302.12	2,040.53	3,342.65
Hopewell	3,823.00	0.00	3,823.00
Mt Moriah	1,973.16	2,597.84	4,571.00
Mt Pisgah	2,494.27	3,500.05	5,994.32
New Haven	1,681.69	1,460.05	3,141.74
New Zion	1,737.45	1,050.59	2,788.04
Providence	100.00	0.00	100.00
Weir	6,186.90	5,274.99	11,461.89
	66,775.52	48,791.12	115,566.64

CLARKE	847.68	723.74	1,571.42
Antioch	3,903.73	2,297.30	6,201.03
Bucaturina	1,287.50	2,026.50	3,314.00
Calvary	4,411.00	736.00	5,147.00
Center Ridge	8,014.00	4,137.27	12,151.27
De Soto	480.00	250.00	730.00
East Pleasant Grove	2,359.58	966.34	3,325.92
Enterprise	24,109.18	16,305.84	40,415.02
FBC Outman	65,114.42	26,401.07	91,515.49
FBC Stonewall	8,681.30	7,293.21	15,974.51
Harmony	4,101.37	1,632.15	5,733.52
Heron Ridge	1,349.31	2,443.47	3,792.78
Knight's Valley	1,873.31	1,812.73	3,686.04
Mont Rose	3,026.01	814.50	3,840.51
Mt Zion	2,154.61	1,150.50	3,305.11
Northrup Chapel	214.00	0.00	214.00
Oak Grove	2,349.16	2,587.21	4,936.37
Pachuta	1,025.27	1,652.00	2,677.27
Phalti	0.00	244.89	244.89
Pine Grove	5,491.29	2,535.63	8,026.92
Pine Hill	4,264.72	1,570.94	5,835.66
Pleasant Grove	1,019.33	100.00	1,119.33
Pleasant Hill	9,835.76	8,706.98	18,542.74
Rolling Creek	16,414.82	3,454.15	19,868.97
Shubuta	6,787.28	3,315.96	10,103.24
Southern	4,565.28	1,640.75	6,206.03
Union	14,988.22	11,378.26	26,366.48
	198,678.13	106,175.39	304,853.52

CP All Gifts Other Total				CP All Gifts Other Total				CP All Gifts Other Total				CP All Gifts Other Total				CP All Gifts Other Total			
Myrick	3,110.85	.00	3,110.85	Faith	894.35	652.00	1,546.35	Phillipston	1,653.83	280.00	1,933.83	Robinson	523.00	1,268.00	1,791.00	Cherry Street	1,823.11	2,908.54	4,731.65
New Hope	2,638.57	1,116.75	3,755.32	Hepzibah	1,059.51	492.52	1,552.03	Schlatter	1,999.32	2,072.00	4,071.32	Thompson	10,029.46	4,804.00	14,833.46	Clarkdale	31,736.06	37,086.44	68,822.50
Oakland Grove	6,661.57	1,630.00	8,291.57	Jayess	300.00	2,219.86	2,519.86	Sidon	966.00	611.70	1,607.70	Union	622.01	1,076.42	1,698.43	Crowder	30,215.80	14,239.41	44,455.21
Park Haven	1,078.54	1,211.03	2,289.57	Monticello	49,903.44	24,680.42	74,583.86		129,731.05	95,539.46	225,270.51	Woodville	28,591.38	18,988.30	47,579.68	Darling	1,039.50	1,196.43	2,235.93
Pine Grove	13,451.51	10,730.43	24,181.94	New Hebron	36,345.83	15,494.73	51,840.56					Zion Hill	784.25	3,431.70		FBC Lambert	10,839.15	9,285.41	20,124.56
Plainway	14,866.35	7,324.03	22,190.38	New Hope	7,143.05	2,979.68	10,122.73	LINCOLN								FBC Marks	17,969.20	5,444.85	23,414.05
Pleasant Home	10,424.05	3,620.52	14,044.57	New Zion	4,810.00	1,807.06	6,617.06	Arlington	3,990.36	2,917.83	6,908.19					FBC Sledge	3,255.25	1,877.42	5,132.67
Salem Heights	20,711.64	2,482.00	23,193.64	Nola	477.35	118.30	595.65	Bethel	6,074.61	2,007.73	8,082.34					FBC Tunicia	17,246.73	17,621.67	34,868.40
Sand Hill	5,387.76	1,256.10	6,643.86	Oakvale	1,103.05	2,012.14	3,115.19	Big Springs	748.00	736.86	1,484.86					Hollywood	2,395.02	190.00	2,585.02
Sandersville	19,390.27	3,916.75	23,307.02	Old Silver Creek	2,879.11	2,370.62	5,249.73	Bogue Chitto	5,918.54	3,218.37	9,136.91					Lula	5,874.10	3,190.00	9,064.10
Second Avenue	14,172.32	12,420.79	26,593.11	Providence	3,016.70	1,222.22	4,238.92	Brookway	2,953.87	230.00	3,183.87					Lyon	12,177.38	7,453.19	19,630.57
Shelton	3,972.48	1,233.93	5,206.41	Sauls Valley	1,522.11	3,561.11	5,083.22	Calvary	8,955.00	3,297.28	12,252.28					Oakhurst	93,532.03	58,251.08	151,783.11
Summerland	8,994.66	5,553.00	14,547.66	Shalom	1,808.60	558.53	2,367.13	Central	23,984.13	9,252.57	33,236.70					Rena Lara	3,738.10	4,218.41	7,956.51
Tallahoma	200.00	.00	200.00	Shiloh	18,362.22	6,112.06	24,474.28	Clear Branch	4,969.00	2,519.00	7,488.00					Riverside	1,706.25	1,632.80	3,339.05
Trinity	18,104.28	9,404.85	27,509.13	Topeka	2,592.60	4,384.00	6,976.60	East Haven	28,278.00	10,262.83	38,540.83					Spurce Street	71.88	.00	71.88
Tuckers Crossing	11,103.69	5,891.74	16,995.43	Wanilla	1,830.16	848.83	2,778.99	East Lincoln	329.26	592.30	921.56					True Light Mission	100.00	.00	100.00
Unity	5,500.00	3,175.00	8,675.00		184,880.11	84,418.42	269,298.53	Fair River	11,540.69	10,522.48	22,063.17					Union Chapel	489.00	440.00	929.00
West Ellisville	46,382.99	17,709.81	64,092.80	LEAKE				FBC Brookhaven	101,002.51	142,466.26	243,468.77					Walnut	2,115.23	240.00	2,355.23
West Laurel	27,076.09	11,467.17	38,543.26	Bethel	426.11	795.00													

Cooperative Program Giving Report Continued . . .

CP	All		CP	All		CP	All		CP	All		CP	All							
Gifts	Other	Total	Gifts	Other	Total	Gifts	Other	Total	Gifts	Other	Total	Gifts	Other	Total						
Crane Creek	3,553.22	1,609.90	5,163.12	Forest Hill	2,512.22	241.00	2,753.22	Macedonia	1,616.32	3,522.52	5,138.84	Paden	966.29	1,397.69	2,363.98	Riverside	7,351.47	1,629.49	8,980.96	
Derby	903.94	946.47	1,850.41	Gaston	10,555.66	10,011.30	20,566.96	Magee Pleasant Hill	1,262.64	1,022.68	2,285.32	Shady Grove	164.25	186.00	350.25	Water Oak	263.76	134.11	397.87	
Emmanuel	355.54	226.00	581.54	Ingram	8,143.13	3,980.49	12,123.62	Main Street	5,926.46	2,363.77	8,290.23	Short Creek	1,443.56	1,358.84	2,802.40	West Shady Grove	5,343.35	4,620.50	9,963.85	
FBC Caniere	7,827.38	4,080.31	11,907.69	Mt Olive	8,841.00	7,926.00	16,767.00	Mt Zion	5,884.67	4,344.14	10,228.81	South Crossroads	1,408.76	182.00	1,590.76	Zion Rest	1,547.17	241.95	1,789.12	
FBC Nicholson	5,175.17	1,733.85	6,909.02	Oak Hill	1,991.10	1,513.71	3,504.81	New Bethlehem	1,202.08	1,279.06	2,481.14	Southwood	321.00	977.47	1,298.47		174,265.51	104,175.78	278,441.29	
FBC Ozona	2,482.47	1,667.04	4,149.51	Osborne Creek	.00	590.29	590.29	New Hope	420.39	560.39	980.78	Tishomingo	13,132.54	10,434.29	23,566.83	WINSTON				
FBC Picayune	92,625.14	45,083.32	137,708.46	Piney Grove	356.21	391.99	748.20	New Zion	2,223.49	826.48	3,049.97	Unity	699.00	403.00	1,102.00	Antioch	1,360.00	3,005.00	4,365.00	
FBC Poplarville	50,555.60	31,027.32	81,582.92	Pleasant Grove	349.25	70.25	1,053.50	Oak Grove	4,517.23	3,809.66	8,326.89	Yellow Creek	1,798.33	2,841.92	4,640.25	Bethel	4,392.26	2,261.67	5,753.93	
Flat Top Unity	1,411.37	1,062.19	2,473.56	Thrasher	11,568.03	10,290.04	21,858.07	Palestine	851.68	700.00	1,551.68				Calvary	12,452.03	10,645.35	23,097.38		
Fords Creek	3,089.19	1,671.11	4,760.30	Trinity	191.08	536.59	727.67	Pine Grove	3,795.36	6,383.90	10,179.26				Crystal Ridge	2,037.00	2,718.00	4,755.00		
Goodyear	16,747.83	5,493.47	22,241.30	Tuscumbia	1,055.00	4,865.47	5,920.47	Pinola	1,000.00	985.00	1,985.00				Day Creek	439.19	670.00	1,109.19		
Grace Memorial	328.13	327.87	656.00	Wheeler	4,281.23	6,304.72	10,585.95	Pleasant Hill	876.45	50.80	927.25				East Louisville	6,487.95	4,649.85	11,137.80		
Gum Pond	1,536.09	990.12	2,526.21		108,272.20	114,359.11	222,631.31	Poplar Springs	5,832.66	7,854.99	13,687.65				Elision Ridge	1,362.74	1,451.65	2,814.39		
Harmony	3,789.46	2,008.54	5,798.00	RANKIN				Shivers	2,025.14	2,640.72	4,665.86				Enon	5,638.95	4,320.04	9,958.99		
Hillcrest Road	745.78	872.18	1,617.96	Andrew Chapel	831.49	1,766.49	2,597.98	Strong River	434.61	1,151.10	1,585.71				Evergreen	11,202.76	11,514.23	22,716.99		
Jackson Landing Rd Men	635.68	272.51	908.19	Antioch	7,851.42	2,548.45	10,399.87	Weatherby	1,529.26	1,391.60	2,920.86				FBC Louisville	98,275.37	67,139.09	165,414.46		
Juniper Grove	8,986.29	5,393.07	15,289.36	Barefoot Springs	2,640.00	2,077.00	4,717.00		230,341.86	184,326.42	414,668.28				Good Hope	437.50	1,461.21	1,898.71		
New Galilee	31.00	15.00	46.00	Bethel	5,484.24	5,463.55	10,947.79								Gum Branch	429.50	326.30	755.80		
New Henleyfield	480.44	311.80	792.24	Briar Hill	48,380.88	23,265.11	71,645.99								Harmony	5,275.01	3,844.48	9,119.49		
New Palestine	19,666.23	8,881.71	28,547.94	Castlewoods	6,189.02	3,200.99	9,390.01	SMITH							Liberty	4,515.69	2,431.81	6,947.50		
Oak Hill	1,198.49	2,712.87	3,911.36	Cato	18,419.20	5,123.17	23,542.37	Beaver Dam	274.00	.00	274.00				Macedonia	4,829.12	3,513.10	8,342.22		
Olive	6,808.00	2,332.00	9,140.00	Central	.00	900.00	900.00	Burns	2,071.33	266.55	2,337.88				Mars Hill	1,729.46	1,039.24	2,768.70		
Parkview	1,549.47	2,227.02	3,776.49	Clear Branch	3,256.31	3,624.81	6,881.12	Center Hill	.00	748.07	748.07				Murphy Creek	10,263.00	5,393.87	15,656.87		
Pine Grove	23,959.55	10,782.85	34,742.40	Cleary	16,451.79	12,039.25	28,491.04	Concord	3,062.29	1,450.00	4,512.29				Noxapater	25,551.97	17,921.26	43,473.23		
Roseland Park	43,919.60	18,708.54	62,628.14	Concord	5,414.69	2,359.61	7,774.30	Corinth	292.00	.00	292.00				Oak Grove	613.60	737.40	1,351.00		
Spring Hill	3,691.30	2,513.06	6,204.36	County Line	1,257.21	903.12	2,160.33	FBC Mize	4,204.15	3,340.36	7,544.51	UNION CO			Poplar Flat	5,303.00	4,541.50	9,844.50		
Steep Hollow	5,897.06	2,074.82	7,971.88	Cross Roads	4,140.50	3,198.66	7,339.16	FBC Polkville	4,430.63	2,686.00	7,116.63	Amaziah	3,211.46	5,059.43	8,270.89	Shiloh	3,548.02	3,484.51	7,032.53	
Union	43,424.45	20,557.85	63,982.30	Crossgates	95,138.62	29,827.10	124,965.72	FBC Raleigh	26,162.66	19,335.63	45,498.29	Beech Springs	791.49	357.52	1,149.01	Singleton	1,119.18	1,360.79	2,479.97	
West Poplarville	326.99	228.49	555.48	Crossview	2,084.75	1,360.50	3,445.25	FBC Taylorsville	14,509.96	17,820.01	32,329.97	Bethel	2,045.80	4,786.08	6,831.88	South Louisville	10,868.73	5,696.36	16,565.09	
West Union	7,725.43	17,976.61	25,702.04	Day Star	4,200.00	4,513.13	8,713.13	Fellowship	1,021.12	1,747.60	2,768.72	Beulah	3,192.00	5,787.00	8,979.00	Union Ridge	1,000.00	1,890.47	2,890.47	
White Sand	2,715.54	2,926.69	5,642.23	Dry Creek	1,387.20	1,647.20	3,034.40	Goodwater	799.21	1,687.91	2,487.12	Blue Springs	2,735.18	488.54	3,223.72	West Chapel	2,641.93	3,948.20	6,410.13	
	391,311.02	215,354.64	606,665.66	Easthaven	572.70	100.41	673.11	Harmony	2,103.73	829.00	2,932.73	Center	5,806.09	5,136.32	10,942.41	West End	929.00	2,361.00	3,290.00	
				Eastside Pearl	21,604.19	7,660.16	29,264.35	High Hill	75.00	.00	75.00	Cornersville	3,193.30	1,724.19	4,917.49	Winston	644.08	522.04	1,166.12	
				Eastside Pelahatchie	2,521.12	360.00	2,881.12	Leaf River	6,447.24	2,983.49	9,430.73	Ellistown	15,748.77	7,450.00	23,198.77		222,267.04	168,848.42	391,115.46	
				Emmanuel	6,499.61	3,459.97	9,959.58	Liberty	1,388.52	1,453.82	2,842.34	FBC New Albany	87,205.22	64,556.77	151,761.99	YALOBUSHA				
				FBC Brandon	245,365.00	64,841.02	310,206.02	Lorena	541.71	1,554.20	2,095.91	Fredonia	5,406.40	15,774.27	21,174.27	Bethel	10,443.00	5,133.00	15,576.00	
				FBC Fannin	4,103.55	4,196.90	8,300.45	Mt Carmel	.00	17.50	17.50	Glenfield	2,632.17	1,213.42	3,845.59	Calvary	2,227.93	1,880.06	4,108.01	
				FBC Florence	35,803.84	28,683.18	64,487.02	Mt Pleasant	234.00	12.00	246.00	Harmony	9,451.24	3,683.97	13,135.21	Camp Ground	7,306.32	5,050.32	12,356.64	
				FBC Flowood	17,746.09	7,913.21	25,659.30	Mt Zion	637.05	3,454.36	4,091.41	Hillcrest	21,643.94	19,939.04	41,582.98	Clear Springs	412.00	245.20	657.20	
				FBC Pearl	40,056.14	21,348.96	61,405.10	New Home	2,832.60	2,228.74	5,061.34	Ingomar	17,143.20	19,201.40	36,344.60	Elam	1,416.00	490.02	1,906.02	
				FBC Richland	35,748.90	5,162.85	40,911.75	New Sardis	2,053.57	3,021.89	5,075.46	Jericho	10,766.02	5,534.64	16,300.66	Faith	.00	2,743.72	2,743.72	
				Galilee	445.42	1,044.55	1,489.97	Oak Grove	1,895.66	4,254.88	5,950.54	Keownville	1,270.22	3,922.43	5,192.65	FBC Coffeeville	32,316.12	23,518.54	55,834.66	
				Grandview	13,697.53	7,968.36	21,665.89	Rocky Hill	509.64	.00	509.64	Liberty	1,200.00	1,869.00	3,069.00	FBC Water Valley	27,600.00	54,530.36	82,130.36	
				Hickory Ridge	2,105.00	2,752.00	4,857.00	Rose Hill	910.00	100.00	1,010.00	Lucust Grove	250.00	52.00	302.00	Friendship	170.96	.00	170.96	
				Johns	3,569.58	1,760.83	5,330.41	Salem	216.76	867.00	1,083.76	Martin	5,572.77	3,639.80	9,212.57	Haven Hill	20.00	.00	20.00	
				Lake Harbor	3,289.05	2,807.59	6,096.64	Sardis	.00	2,013.35	2,013.35	Moss Hill	2,485.92	1,130.90	3,616.82	Hopewell	105.00	915.00	1,020.00	
				Leesburg	8,471.79	3,642.12	12,113.91	Shady Grove	745.00	1,197.03	1,942.03	Myrtle	10,064.17	2,515.70	12,579.87	New Hope	180.00	650.00	830.00	
				Liberty	12,240.31	1,854.60	14,094.91	Sylvarena	16,982.62	21,552.77	38,535.39	New Harmony	1,545.26	3,578.56	5,123.82	O Tuckalofo	4,209.29	3,068.26	7,277.55	
				McLaurin Heights	56,976.28	21,917.52	78,893.80	Ted	540.00	2,175.00	2,715.00	New Hope	25.00	.00	25.00	Oakland	2,270.32	2,331.53	4,601.85	
				Meadow Grove	14,716.53	5,035.16	19,751.69	Union	7,597.79	11,362.02	18,959.81	New Oak Grove	1,770.88	688.20	2,459.08	Pine Grove	1,380.00	3,712.00	5,092.00	
				Mountain Creek	3,178.00	2,108.14	5,286.14	Walnut Grove	298.52	125.00	423.52	Northside	2,780.17	1,848.99	4,629.16	Sylva Rena	5,956.76	2,967.75	8,924.51	
				Mt Pisgah	7,344.70	7,355.65	14,700.35	White Oak	6,430.38	8,177.87	14,608.25	Oak Hill	213.00	175.43	388.43	Tillatoba	375.00	787.68	1,162.68	
				Mt Zion	7,481.00	6,343.20	13,824.20	Wilkinson Memorial	549.00	.00	549.00	Oak View	100.00	94.00	194.00	Wayside	4,636.75	4,820.70	9,457.45	
				Oakdale	24,587.66	4,611.99	29,199.65		109,616.14	116,462.05	226,078.19	Old Oak Grove	1,570.18	2,790.09	4,360.27		101,025.45	112,844.16	213,869.61	
				Park Place	37,924.83	12,607.00	50,531.83	SUNFLOWER					Pleasant Dale	381.70	418.09	799.79	YAZOO			
				Paul Truitt Memorial	13,934.44	6,666.76	20,601.20	Bethany	829.02	1,167.38	1,996.40	Pleasant Hill	9,774.15	11,095.31	20,869.46	Anding	.00	100.00	100.00	
				Pearson	18,717.20	10,193.90	28,911.10	Bethel	4,303.00	1,110.00	5,413.00	Pleasant Ridge	6,966.37	6,911.40	13,877.77	Benton	4,696.49	1,149.50	5,845.99	
				Pelahatchie	38,012.05	12,323.60	50,335.65	Blaine	225.00	290.00	515.00	Poolville	498.04	.00	498.04	Bentonia	4,768.34	1,850.50	6,618.84	
				Pine Crest	3,084.21	1,760.36	4,844.57	Dockery	180.00	.00	180.00	Wallerville	8,921.66	4,426.00	13,347.66	Bethlehem	3,826.32	861.75	4,688.07	
				Pine Lake	43,706.52	20,576.70	64,283.22	Drew	12,054.56	5,771.70	17,826.26	West Tallahatchie	1,128.18	1,297.12	2,425.30	Black Jack	6,696.53	2,049.00	8,745.53	
				Providence	1,548.98	1,273.50	2,822.48	Eastwood	7,465.99	6,650.81	14,116.80	Zion Hill	1,760.00	920.00	2,680.00	Calvary</				

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Japanese flavors Mississippi

By Anne W. McWilliams

Her high heels tapped in staccato as the smartly dressed young Japanese woman hurried across the restaurant to ask a question of an American soldier: "Would you like me to be your interpreter?"

James Donohoo, in Japan on an intelligence mission during the war in Vietnam, found himself intrigued with her polished sophistication. "Why, yes, I would," he replied. Thus began a romance. James and Sachiyo got married in Florida in 1972 and moved to Walthall, Mississippi, in his native Webster County.

Now, 18 years later, romance still strong, these two, a wedding of Japan and Mississippi, are making a definite difference in their world.

Marriage eventually led to Sachiyo's conversion to Christianity. In her hometown of Kokura, Kitakyushu, where Buddhism was the dominant religion, she had heard Baptist missionaries speak on the radio. "I enjoyed listening to them," she said recently, "but I would never have considered believing in the Jesus they were talking about. It takes a long time for a Japanese to come to belief in Christ."

In early years, she and James didn't go to church. However, later, Sachiyo heard James read Bible stories to their small daughter, Jennifer, and she felt Jennifer's excitement about going to Vacation Bible School at the Walthall Baptist Church. So to James she said, "We need to go to church as a family," and she began to study the Bible. "It took a long time for me to become a believer," she recalled. "A Japanese-English Bible really helped." Eventually she did make that decision, and then began to share her faith.

Her own experience helped her to feel empathy for another military wife who had moved to Mississippi from a different country and culture. As a result of Sachiyo's friendship, the other woman began to attend church and soon made a profession of faith. "She and I and our pastor (William Weddle) were all hugging each other and crying!" Sachiyo said, her face aglow.

Too, because of her own international background, Sachiyo has become a friend to international students at Wood Junior College, Mathiston. In December, she and James helped to give a party for those students. James, a "habitual Santa Claus," as he terms himself, gave out stockings containing Gideon Bibles. Sachiyo sang "Silent Night" in Japanese.

Her gift of hospitality often comes into play as she entertains internationals and others. In Japan, after she was graduated from Kitakyushu University with a major in English and foreign languages and with two teacher's licenses, she enrolled in a cooking school. Consequently, a dinner party for any number is right down her alley. During one revival at Walthall Church, she cooked and served at her house a meal for 19, starring Japanese dishes such as koro-ke, fried ramen, and teriyaki, and adding American delights such as coconut cake.

Where in Japan she had sometimes delivered political speeches, in Mississippi, she has, to her joy, often been invited to lecture in schools and churches on Japanese customs and culture. This also has given her oppor-

tunities to testify of her love for Jesus Christ.

In church, community, and public school affairs, both Sachiyo and James serve with enthusiasm. For a long time, she wrote a column in the local paper, the Webster Progress Times.



Sachiyo Donohoo

Pastor Weddle said of the Donohos, "They are very, very dedicated and mean a lot to our church."

At Walthall Church, James, an insurance salesman, is chairman of deacons. Sometimes he directs the music. A lay preacher, he said, "I have preached on 30 minutes' notice."

In Discipleship Training, Sachiyo teaches preschoolers. "The children understand my English well, even when adults don't," she said, smiling. "When I say to the children, 'Let's pray,' they don't want to, but when I say, 'Let's talk to God,' they love it!" Her English is excellent; her accent only adds to her charm. She laments that she has forgotten much of the Japanese language.

She is secretary for WMU and of her Sunday School class, teaches in VBS, and sings in the choir.

Their daughter, Jennifer, 16, apparently inherited her parents' talents and their eagerness to make themselves useful. She is vice-president of her tenth grade and was named Most Talented in her school. Besides singing, she plays piano, French horn, and trumpet. She has accompanied high school choirs and the Miss. District High School Mass Choir held at USM, and is in the school band. (Her dad is president of the band boosters and her mother was vice president last year.) In church, she was co-director last year of the children's choir and has taken part in Bible drills and keyboard festivals since fourth grade. She is now pianist for the youth choir.

James was president of Gideon International Eupora Camp and Sachiyo is Auxiliary president. Saturday afternoons, James and other Gideons hold a service at the local jail. "We have converts nearly every week," he said. Often his wife and daughter go with him and sing before he speaks, as Gideon representative.

"Remember," Sachiyo wrote in one article, "it takes all of us, the missionaries, the church, each of us, and the working of the Holy Spirit in sending the word of God to the four corners of the earth."



James Donohoo

Lad/Crusader Day April 27

Lad/Crusader Day will take place April 27 at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko.

The event, scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature competitions and missionary speakers.

The speakers include Steve Smith, missionary to Argentina who works in recreation, and Lloyd Lunceford, missionary to Taiwan who works with college students.

Events in the competitions include RA Racers, mission project, chapter banner, Speakout, Show and Tell, and Campcraft.

For the mission project, chapters may submit information on a mission project they were involved in this past year. These will be judged and ribbons awarded.

Topic for the Speakout is to come from the Royal Ambassador pledge. And the campcraft competition will have events such as knot tying and compass reading.

Cost is \$5 per person which includes lunch, insurance, and program costs.

Overnight camping will be available for a limited number of groups which need to supply their own equipment and meals. Camper groups must register by April 12. Additional cost is \$1 per camper.

Registration for participation in Lad/Crusader Day is necessary by April 23. Participation is limited to the first 500 registrants. Write: Crusader Day, Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Baptist Seminary elects first faculty members

RICHMOND, Va. — Trustees of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond have elected the new institution's first two full-time faculty members.

BTSR President Thomas H. Graves, who assumed his post Feb. 10, issued a statement following the trustees' action Mar. 16 saying the election of initial faculty "enables us to announce that the future of this institution is assured and that we will definitely open for classes in the fall of 1991."

Elected as dean of the faculty and professor of church history was G. Thomas Halbrooks, currently professor of church history at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Linda McKinnish Bridges, currently a visiting professor in New Testament studies at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, was elected assistant professor of New Testament.

Thursday, April 4, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Letters to the editor

Missionaries need help!

Editor:

The sun rises over the Tejo River, illuminating the cloud strewn sky with muted colors of blue and purple. The huge suspension bridge is subordinated by Christo Rei, a giant statue of Christ. Ships of the world sail into the harbor. Hundreds of high-rises dot the horizon. It is morning in Lisbon — and as I look out my window, all these things serve to remind me once again, I'm not in Mississippi any more.

Two months into our formal language study, four months in the country, have shown us two different Portugals. The first two months were in Tavira, a small town in the Algarve, which is the area along the southern coastline. Tavira was a curious mix of the ancient and the new, of Portuguese culture adapting to the tourist trade which flourishes there. It was there in Tavira that we found friendship among the Portuguese nationals — the friendship that comes from the countryside and a slower pace of life.

January put us in Lisbon, a metropolis, which, like Rome, is built on seven hills. Dotted the perimeter of the original city are bedroom communities where millions of people live. Two million of them a day, including the two of us, converge on the city center. Those of us who ride trains or buses into the city, move around it by subway, trolley, bus, and taxi, while those who have driven search almost vainly for a parking space. Work for most of them will begin at 8 — and end at 7 that night. They will travel for an hour or two to get home, eat, sleep, and start the same experience again the next morning.

We are feeling the isolation of the city. Amidst the hustle and bustle, we have not found the opportunities to make friends as close as we had just two months ago. Finding people who have time to talk is almost impossi-

ble. Everyone is in a hurry.

All around me are people who have no time for earthly relationships and no knowledge of Christ. And they never will, if things remain the way that they are.

As we pray for missions and missionaries in general, we need to remember the tremendous needs of the cities of the world. We need to pray for workers to be called to these fields, and for methods to touch the masses of people who are caught up in the whirlwind of activity which leaves them untouchable by usual evangelistic means. We need to pray for lonely people — for "the lonely voices crying in the city." And we need to be prepared to leave the familiar relationships of home, to share the good news of a personal relationship with a living Lord.

Don and Carol Minshew, Rua de Eira, No. 63, 3-Esq., 1495 Lisboa (Alges), Portugal

Don was pastor of Lake Forest Baptist Church in Walls prior to appointment. — Editor

Causey to speak to chaplains

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the featured speaker for the annual spring chaplains retreat at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, May 3-4.

Ed Holmes, president of the association, announces the event as a time for "relaxation, fellowship, and inspiration."

Gloryland, a gospel singing group from McComb, will provide the music for the two-day program.

Reservations may be made by contacting Richard Brogan in the Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB, phone 968-3800.

Second greatest miracle: new souls for eternity . . .

By Farno L. Green

God's greatest miracle is the gift of the risen Christ to provide eternal life to a boy, girl, man, or woman and that Christ dwelling in the person can make a new life. God wants those who accept Christ as personal savior to fellowship with him now and throughout eternity.

How does God get more people — more souls — to fellowship with forever? In the beginning, "God created man in his own image . . . male and female . . . and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply . . ." (Gen. 1:27, 28 KJV). The Bible tells of no source of eternal souls other than descent from his original creation of man.

The second greatest miracle is that God has entrusted young men, women, and older adults with the responsibility of creating new souls which will live forever. God's plan is simple. It is that one man and one woman join their lives together in marriage to create a new soul.

What earthly task should be undertaken with more care than the creation of a new soul and nurturing it to assure fellowship with God forever?

If you are looking for a mate, the Bible has a wealth of instruction on how the choice should be made to assure a fertile environment for a new eternal soul and how you can demonstrate God's love.

If you have created a new soul, are you and your mate together doing all that you should to lead that soul to know Christ as personal savior? If mistakes have been made, do you ask the Lord for daily guidance? He can help.

God's love is best demonstrated on earth by loving action of a Christian in every day living. If you are aunt, uncle, grandparent, or other relation, can your nurturing of a soul be special in providing guidance and influence showing God's love?

God loves each person and wants that soul to fellowship with him now and throughout eternity. Isn't it awesome that God has entrusted us with eternal responsibility?

Green, a resident of Ruth, is deacon and Sunday School director, Shady Grove, Lincoln County.



Green

Registration cards for SBC are available

Registration cards for the Southern Baptist Convention scheduled for June 4-6, 1991, in Atlanta can be requested from the Office of the Executive Director at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or phone 968-3800, ext. 3801.

Just for the Record

Woodville Church, Mississippi Association, recently held its annual Royal Ambassador award ceremony. Woodville Church has over 40 young men and boys in RA ministry. Counselors for the group are Mark McGraw, Gene Ruthowski, and Greg McKey.

Friendship Church, Aberdeen, will host the singing group, "In One Accord," from Bellevue Church, Memphis, April 7, at 5 p.m. Todd Bowen is pastor.

Calvary Church, Durant, will host gospel singing with New Heart from Reform, Ala., and Jerry and Spin Smith, on April 6, at 7 p.m.

The Hoppers will be singing at Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, on Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m. Kara Blackard is pastor.

Robinhood Church, Brandon, will host a gospel singing featuring the Gospel Echoes and Willing Servants, April 6 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

Baptist Memorial Hospital — DeSoto will sponsor the Southaven Spring Festival '91 5K Twilight Run, a Memphis in May sanctioned event, on April 12. The race will be held on the campus of BMH DeSoto, Southaven, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The fee is \$7 if pre-registered, and \$8 if registering the day of the event. Members of running clubs can participate for only \$6. To request an application for the race, call Pam Hill, BMH DeSoto, at 349-4016 or 349-4000. Application forms can also be picked up at Baptist Memorial Hospital's HealthPlex, 111 Union Ave., Memphis.



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WMU officers will train at Camp Garaywa

Camp Garaywa will host two associational WMU officers training retreats, April 25-26 and April 26-27. These retreats offer inspiration as well as training conferences for each associational WMU officer. The retreats begin with supper at 5:30 p.m. and end with lunch the next day.

Featured guests for the retreats will be: James Richardson, pastor at FBC, Madison; Wilda Fancher, past president of Mississippi WMU; Randy Millwood, minister of education at Jackson's Broadmoor Church; Frances Raley, missionary to Taiwan; and Gretchen Davis, MK from Ghana and music teacher in Jackson.

To register, send name of association, with list of names and offices held, along with \$21 per person to: WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

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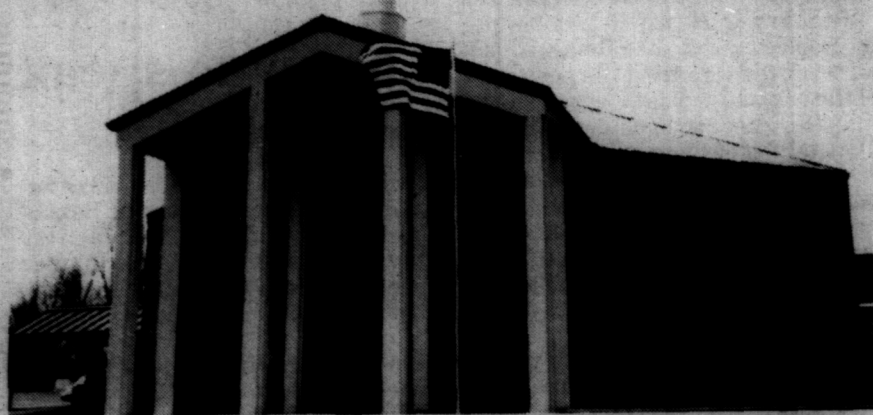
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West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, will have "Dedication Day" services for its new worship center, April 7, during the worship hour at 10:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Bobby Perry, Gulf Coast Association, building consultant.

There will be a fellowship noon meal, then open house will be from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. The fan shaped auditorium has a seating capacity of 900. The sanctuary features stained glass windows with Old and New Testament symbols and the balcony overlooks the pulpit and a 68 seat choir, with classrooms and office space behind. Dwight L. Smith is pastor.

Revival dates

Central Grove Church, Aberdeen: April 7-10; Sunday services, 11 a.m.; evening services, 7 p.m.; Ray Burks, evangelist; Billy Bowie, music.

Grace Church, Vicksburg (Warren): April 7-11; Sun., 7 p.m.; Mon-Thur., 7:30 p.m.; Phil Smith, Morning Star Church, Shreveport, La., evangelist; Charles Bufkin, Bearfoot Church, Pelahatchie, music; Horace Ross, pastor.

Puckett Church (Rankin): April 7-10; services, 7 p.m.; Guy Henderson, editor of The Baptist Record, evangelist; Graham Smith, director, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, music.

Trinity Church, Laurel: April 7-10; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Allen Stephens, pastor, First Church, Richland, evangelist; Mike Edwards, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale; A. Harrison Weger, pastor.

Flag Chapel Church, Jackson: April 7-12; Sunday-Friday, 7 p.m.; Wesley Enfinger, Gulf Coast Temple, Ocean Springs, evangelist; Hully Williams, Flag Chapel Church, Jackson, music; Dexter Truesdell, pastor; high attendance day for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and service at 11 a.m.

Slayden Church (Marshall): April 7-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Jack Gregory, pastor, Southwestern Church, Johnson City, Tenn., evangelist; Mike Parks, minister of music, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, music; Bill Hardin, pastor.

Southside Church, Aberdeen: April 7-10; Sunday, regular services; Mon-Wed., 12 noon with lunch served and 7 p.m.; Steve Jackson, pastor, East End Church, Columbus, evangelist; Monty Bounds, minister of music, 19th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, music; Kenneth E. Walters, pastor.

Paul Church (Tallahatchie): April 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bob Chesser, pastor, Bible Church (Marshall), evangelist; Dirk E. Moody, pastor.

Calvary Church, Durant: April 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry W. Smith, preaching.

Van Winkle Church, Jackson (Hinds-Madison): April 7-11; Sunday, 9:45 Sunday School, worship 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon-Thur., 7 p.m.; luncheon, Wed. noon; Rick Scarborough, First Church, Pearland, Texas, evangelist; Larry McFadden, First Church, Orlando, Fla., music; Ferrell Cork, pastor; Carroll Farmer, minister of education.

First Church, Houlika: April 7-10; Al Gaspard, pastor, First Church, Houston, evangelist; Don Buchanan, music director, First Church, Houlika, music; Rick Burton, pastor.

Cherry Creek Church, Ecu: April 7-10; services, Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. each night; Ken Anderson, First Church, Saltito, evangelist; James Lewis, pastor.

Elim Church, Quitman: April 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Jay, Harmony Church, Quitman, evangelist; Randy Makemson, pastor.

Hope Church, Philadelphia: April 11-13; services, 7 p.m.; John Sharp, Sebastopol Church, evangelist; William Crenshaw, Hope Church, music; James H. Young Jr., pastor.

Rena Lara Church (North Delta): April 7-12; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Fri., 7 p.m.; Joel Stroud, pastor, Lyon Church, evangelist; Winston Earnhart, music director, First Church, Tunica, music; John Purvis, pastor.

Chunky Church (Newton): April 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ty Pigott, Bethany Church, Whynot, evangelist; Bob Strebeck, Chunky Church, music; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

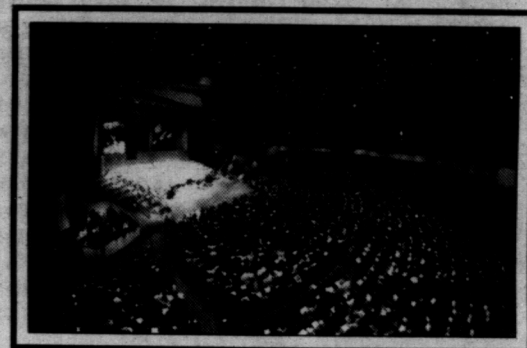
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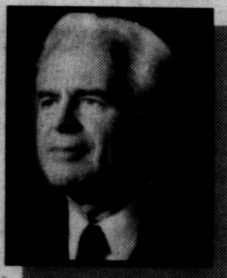
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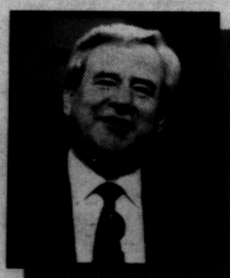
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PREREGISTRATION NOTICE: While preregistration is not required to attend the conference, all who preregister by April 8 may purchase audio-cassette tapes of the conference sessions at a 50 percent reduction. Cut-off date for preregistration is Monday, April 8, 1991.

CHILD CARE: Child care for children ages birth through 3 is available by reservation. Call the conference office at (901) 385-5720.

Self-sacrifice: what's involved?

By Benny Still
John 21:15-22

This week we conclude the unit dealing with the various ways God's Son completed his saving work. In this particular lesson, we will look at some ways to demonstrate our love for the Lord Jesus. Peter was called into service by Jesus, himself. We are called that way, too, as we respond to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Three times in verses 15-17 Jesus asked Peter about the level of his love (commitment) to him (Jesus). We could coin a contemporary song title and ask ourselves a similar question today: "How Deep Is Your Love?"

When Jesus asked Peter about his commitment the first two times, he used the word 'agapao' which signified the highest level of spiritual devotion. Peter responded with "Lord, you know I 'phileo' you (love you like a brother/friend)." When Jesus asked the third time, he used Peter's word since he seemed not to understand the level of commitment Jesus was seeking from him. One gets the idea that



Still

LIFE AND WORK

Jesus might be inferring this thought: "Peter, if you really do 'love' me, PROVE IT! Prove it by feeding my sheep." You see, real love demands action, not complacency! Is the issue in these verses the kind of love that we should have for the Lord or is it our willingness to translate our personal affection for Jesus into a ministry of concern for the flock?

Oh, how the flock of God's people needs tending today! The first words Peter had heard from Jesus were, "Follow me!" (Mark 1:17) Is it strange that these words would also be among the last he would hear from the Master? With as much fervor as Peter had denied Jesus before, during, and after the crucifixion, he was now being called upon to reaffirm his loyalty to Christ. As Jesus pounds home the point that Peter's love should manifest itself in outward expressions of service, i.e. "Feed my sheep," one realizes that Jesus is restoring Peter to as full and responsible a place in his service as he had enjoyed before the denials took place.

We sometimes make the distinction that a glaring default of duty may permanently disqualify a minister from service, even though his sin is forgiven by God. Jesus, however, was will-

ing to entrust even his little lambs to one who had completely violated his sacred oaths just a few days before. What a blessing to know that even after we have failed the Lord, he stands ready to forgive and restore us in his service.

If we would effectively follow Jesus, we must learn that following him includes loving him as Master and giving him priority in every area of our lives (vv. 15-17).

The question then comes: "How far are we willing to let our commitment take us in service to the Lord?" For one of our foreign missionaries in Kenya, Lynda Bethea, it meant her life. Just last week, we received word of her brutal death at the hands of Kenyan nationals who robbed and beat her and her husband, Ralph. The commitment of Lynda Bethea is one that few of us will ever have to match. She literally gave her life in service to the Master. Even if we are not called upon to face such a heinous death, would we be willing to serve the Lord to sacrificial obedience where we are?

In verses 18-19 Jesus figuratively described the way in which Peter would eventually have to give his life in service to the Lord. If the Lord delays his coming, we may be called upon to put our lives on the line. Let's make the most of the time we do have to be about his work!

As a child, I remember having to decide whether I wanted to do something at home with

my family or go elsewhere with my friends. It was a difficult decision to make. The question I usually asked was, "What's everyone else doing?" Generally, I would base my decision on what others were doing or wanting to do rather than being my own boss and doing what I really wanted to do. I see myself in Peter here in these verses. When Peter asked Jesus about John's future, Jesus' reply was almost a "What difference does it make to you?" We are to be obedient to the will of God in our own experiences without regard for what his will may be for others (vv. 20-22).

As little lambs follow their mothers for life-sustaining milk and nourishment, the shepherd bears the responsibility for the needs of the grown up sheep. We are to assist in birthing people into the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again" (John 3). We are to help disciple them as they grow and mature in their newfound faith (Matthew 28:19-20). Thank God that there are wise, responsible shepherds who are commissioned to look after the needs of the sheep. If it were not so, many of us today would be starving.

The song says: "Give of your best to the Master!" We need to realize that in so doing, self may have to be sacrificed.

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

The Lord's Supper — a celebration of our faith

By Ruth N. Allen
1 Corinthians 11:17-29

There is a legend that the Queen of Sheba once sent two wreaths of roses to Solomon; one was genuine, the other artificial. She defied Solomon to detect which was artificial and which was genuine. Solomon opened a window and let in a swarm of bees, which at once settled upon the real roses. Likewise, God knows the difference between sincere and insincere worship.

Disorders disturb public worship (11:17-22).

Some of the worshippers at Corinth had lost sight of the true purpose and meaning of worship. Instead of maturing in worship, some were actually perpetuating a spiritual decline which worsened the worship environment. When a church permits conditions to exist which bring out the worse instead of the best, worship degenerates into a spectacle which profanes the name of God. Worship of God is not enhanced; neither is the Lord's Supper observed in keeping with the intent of Jesus. Disgraceful conduct always reduces the effectiveness of public



Allen

UNIFORM

worship. Paul asserts that no praise is forthcoming for disorderly worship.

Worship begins with remembrance (11:24-26).

Roman soldiers were required, as far as possible, to return to Rome once a year from wherever they were garrisoned and to renew their oath of allegiance to the emperor. The soldiers of every nation must salute the colors from time to time or be judged guilty of treason or disloyalty. When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we pledge anew our allegiance by remembering the one who gave his life for us. Many purposes have been attributed to the Lord's Supper, but Jesus said, "To do so in remembrance of me."

Jesus, who understands human nature, knows that people over a period of time tend to forget the unpleasantness of life. Most people do not dwell on tragic and terrible events. Words cannot describe the horrible events of the cross. One cannot begin to imagine the sufferings of Jesus. Crucifixion was one of the most cruel devices of man. There are times when other punishments produce sharper pain, but none prolong the agony and pain as did the cross. The

nails which impaled the victim were excruciating and produced other reactions which intensified the pain and suffering. Nail wounds became inflamed, producing a general fever; and fever, in turn, produced a most intolerable thirst. The inability of the victim to move racked the body with agony. Every attempt to relieve the muscles became more torturous as the hours dragged by. Usually two to three days passed before death came to end mercifully the suffering. It's as painful for me to write these words about the cross as it is for you to read them. Therefore, it is most convenient to push them into the recesses of one's mind. Jesus knew the revulsion of the cross and the human tendency to forget. Consequently, he instituted the Lord's Supper so believers would always have a reminder of the price he paid for our salvation.

Worship is a right attitude toward God (11:27-29).

Paul chides the Corinthians for disorderly conduct and attitudes as the Lord's Supper is celebrated. Each occasion for worship is the opportunity to express our faith in the living, loving Jesus. Our attitude toward Jesus determines the extent to which one worships. He exhorts the Corinthians to "examine themselves" to see if they are acting unseemingly toward

Jesus. Paul is not asking Christians to examine themselves to see if they are worthy. Believers have been made worthy by our Lord's death and resurrection. Paul reminds the people to examine their manner and attitude of worship. When a person sees the cross of Jesus in proper perspective, he sees former sins cancelled and provisions made for future sins. The right attitude will prevail, and worship experiences become celebrations of faith.

Worshipful observance of the Lord's Supper exalts Jesus Christ and presents ways to augment one's celebration of faith:

1. Possession of a right attitude of worship is approved by God and serves as a model for immature believers.

2. The symbolism of the bread and fruit of the vine brings to remembrance the vicarious death of Jesus.

3. Believers are partakers of the New Covenant. No longer do believers live by laws written on tablets of stone, but by the laws of God written upon their hearts. In the New Covenant one has an inner compulsion of God's Spirit, personal knowledge, and grace based on forgiveness (Hebrews 8:7-12).

Allen of Jackson, is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonla.

God uses David; he can hit hard with crooked sticks

By Jerry Vardaman
II Sam. 1:1-2:32

He slaughters an Amalekite (1:1-16)
J. B. Gambrell, a former editor of both the Texas Baptist Standard and the Mississippi



Vardaman

Baptist Record, had a way of saying, "God can hit hard with a crooked stick." He was saying that God does not have to have perfect people through whom to work. Moses, for example, had killed an Egyptian. In the passage under review David is not presented as a perfect person, and repeatedly the Old Testament refers to him as a man of blood (here he

orders the death of an Amalekite — 1:13-16). The Old Testament tells of his adultery with Bathsheba (I Sam. 1:2ff.). The Old Testament informs us that when he took Jerusalem he refused to let the lame, blind, and infirm inside the temple courts, (II Sam. 5:8 ff.) a rule which continued until Roman times. We have already seen that Jesus rejected the example of David and deliberately invited these same types of people to come to him expectantly in the temple where he healed them (Matt. 21:14).

In understanding David's rage against the Amalekite, one should recall that on two occasions, when David could have killed Saul, he

refused to do so — regarding Saul as the Lord's anointed (I Sam. 24 and 26). David must have been further angered that an Amalekite did what he himself had refused to do. However, we do not here try to justify what David did.

This is the beginning of a series of lessons from II Samuel which deal with David and his times and household. Our recent lessons have been dealing with Jesus whose entire life was perfect and spotless. The life of David was just the opposite — more like the way many ruthless people still live. We must remember that David lived at a time when people did that which was right in their own eyes.

We can still be grateful that the Word of God does not omit these dark chapters from David's life. Even in the New Testament, we see dark chapters in the lives of the saints there. In the final analysis, such realism as the Bible depicts in the lives of the saints helps us to have greater confidence in its accuracy. Throughout its pages, therefore, the weaknesses of the saints are everywhere manifest.

His elegy over Saul and Jonathan (1:17-27)

David's song here demonstrates one of the greatest uses God made of his talents. Here David, far from being a saint, saw accurately the contribution which Saul (his sworn enemy)

and Saul's son, Jonathan, made to the people of God in that day. He was large of soul and great in spirit to pay such tribute to Saul and his house.

In addition, here we see clearly that certain scriptures are to be understood figuratively. David says about Saul and Jonathan that they were "... swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions" (II Sam. 1:23). This language clearly is not to be taken word for word but as a figure of speech; the Bible is richer not weaker, because of such language.

One hears all of the time, "I am just a country boy/girl..." I do not believe that God can use me," or words to this effect. Yet, David was a country boy. Mary, the mother of Jesus, of David's line, was a small town girl, and God used her for his own purposes (Luke 1:26-56).

God chooses his house to continue (2:8-32)

The story of the northern kingdom after the death of Saul is a sad one. Briefly, Abner, Saul's general in charge of the army, took Saul's son Ishbosheth (likely the original name was Ishbaal = "man of Baal"; since Hebrew scribes hated the name of Baal they changes his name to Ishbosheth = "man of shame") over the Jordan and set up a rival kingdom. Soon, however, Ishbosheth and Abner had a falling out and the entire house collapsed, step by step.

We should learn well the grim lessons of history. Unless the Lord builds a house and wat-

ches over the house, it is headed for the trash heap. God had great plans for the house of David, through whom, eventually (Matt. 1; Luke 1), Jesus, the greater son of David, and the one greater than David, finally emerged.

We see about us children who need help and guidance. We see places where masses are to be reached. One never knows when God will raise up new leaders from backwoods situations.

When Truett was led to Christ by an otherwise unknown preacher (J. G. Pulliam) at the age of 11, one is reminded of David's early service, and dedication to God. Pulliam was about to ride his horse over the mountain, to another spot of service in the backwoods of North Carolina, the revival services having ended that morning in the small church at Haysville. But the Spirit of God would not let him move on. A young man named Truett was struggling with a decision, and he felt that he should preach again to try to reach the boy. That night in the worship service, the young boy decided to let Christ be Lord and the impact he made on the world of his day is incalculable. Maybe God is dealing with you and your talents. He gave them to you for a purpose. May he direct you in using them, in spite of your weaknesses and failings, always, and only, for his glory.

Vardaman is professor of archaeology, Miss. State University.

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A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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HOLIDAY FUND REACHES GOAL!

We are praising the Lord for your generous response to our 1990 Holiday Fund Appeal. For the first time since 1986 we reached our goal! Our 1990 Holiday goal was \$270,000.00. As of March 1, 1991 our total receipts toward our goal are \$270,031.40.

Your timing could not have been better. With the cost of providing childcare sky rocketing, your generosity and our careful stewardship has allowed us to continue effectively meeting the needs of children and families around our state.

As our children and staff worshipped together on Easter Sunday I thought of the New Life and New Beginnings that so many have come to know through the work of this ministry. That new life, those new beginnings, were made possible by your prayers and support. **THANK YOU!**

We are now involved in our 1991 Easter Fund Appeal. Our goal is \$110,000.00. Last year we fell short of that goal by almost \$13,000.00. As of March 27 our Easter Fund receipts for 1991 were \$60,442.30. Help us make this year a year of reaching goals — so we can reach more lives.

Send your tax-deductible gift to: Easter Fund, The Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027.

Your fellow servant,
Jerry Jackson
Chaplain

Be willing to be used for God's glory: Clower

By Steve Barber

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (BP) — "God hasn't ever made a mistake, and he's never going to make one with you."

Christian entertainer Jerry Clower drove that point home again and again to more than 500 High School Baptist Young Men at their annual rally and training event March 1-3 in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Clower interwove his message that "Christianity works" with his well-known tales of growing to manhood with sidekick "Marselle Ledbetter," moving his audience of youth from gales of laughter to rapt attention.

"I love you all because you're not a bunch of pessimists," Clower continued. "Negativism can kill us graveyard dead. It can ruin nations, it can lose wars, it can destroy marriages, it can bust up churches."

Clower told the youth, who participate in the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's missions education program for young men in grades 10 through 12, to be willing to be used by God for his glory.

"Every day when I get up, the first thing I do is pray. I say, 'Lord, I'm on your side. You've never made a mistake. So whatever happens today,

I'm just going to praise your name and keep on going.' It's hard to give thanks for all things, but we'll understand it better by and by. Whatever is out there, he will use it, and use you in it."

Clower's appearance was a highlight of a full weekend of learning more about being used in God's service, and training to serve more effectively.

Participants selected from more than 30 conferences on topics ranging from personal witnessing, Bible study, and missions projects to Christian dating, clowning, and mime ministry.

Mime and dramatist Doug Berky of Nashville taught two conferences and performed for assemblies throughout the weekend with a message much like Clower's.

"God calls us to be light in a dark world," Berky said. "So continue to pray and listen to the voice of Scripture, the God who calls you. God wants you to be yourself, to be what he made. And he wants you to use your gifts and glorify him in all that you do."

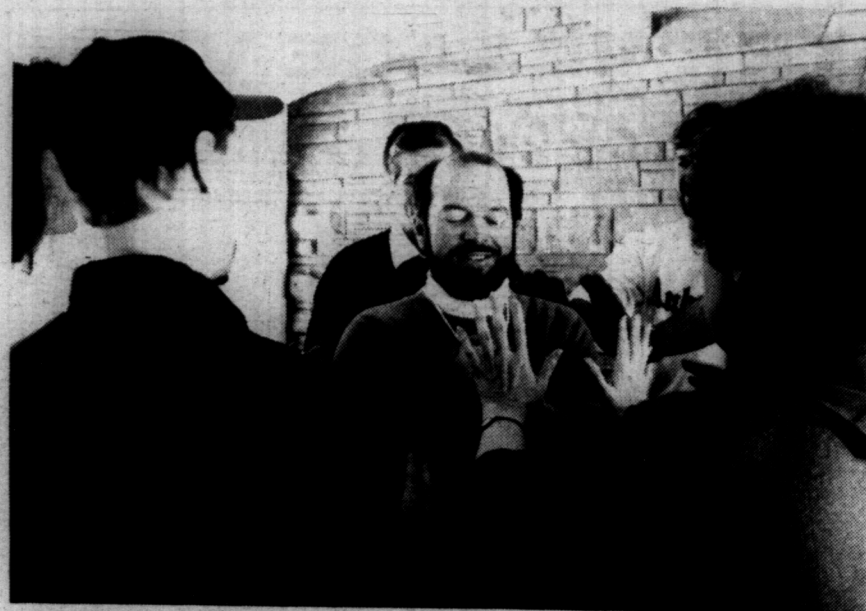
Berky's representations in mime included his impressions of self-absorbed young Americans contrasted with hunger in the Third World, and his view of those he defined as "Christ followers" throughout history, including Corrie Ten Boom, Martin Luther King Jr., and Mother Teresa.

"I can get depressed about the condition of this world until I look at people like these, who responded to God's call," Berky said. "The Bible is full of incredible stories about the choices God makes. He calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things, like young David, who was your age when he took on Goliath."

Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith, who led the young men in a study in Philippians, was honored for his role in the creation of the High School Baptist Young Men's program four years ago and for his ongoing support.

Smith will retire later this year.

Steve Barber is communications coordinator for church and denominational relations, Brotherhood Commission.



ESTES PARK, Colo. — Hal Melton, a member of Woodhaven Church, Cary, N.C., participates in a trust exercise where he allows those in the circle around him to freely shove him back and forth. Melton, a recreation consultant for the Baptist State Convention at North Carolina, participated in the activities at a Sunday School Board-sponsored Rec Lab conference where he was learning to help churches use their recreation facilities more successfully. (BP photo by Terri Lackey.)

Recreation ministers need purpose for viable program

ESTES PARK, Colo. (BP) — A church recreation program that spins out of control and becomes nothing more than fun and games can devastate a ministry beyond the point of repair, a recreation leader said.

Recreation ministers who are not confident of their purpose and mission as a support program of the church cannot adequately meet the needs church recreation was designed for, said John Garner, field services coordinator for the Sunday School Board's church recreation department.

"In keeping recreation a ministry, you cannot lead others to be in tune unless you are," Garner told church recreation ministers attending Rec Lab at Estes Park YMCA Center in Estes Park, Colo.

"A ministry out of control will absolutely eat your lunch; the games will take control unless you know your purpose," Garner said. "Once you lose the ministry aspect of your program, it is a real struggle to pull it back," he added.

To keep recreation in line with theology, churches must employ a key person who is responsible for knowing the ministry aspect of the program, Garner said.

"Some churches just throw up a

gym and say, 'Y'all come.' They fail to get anyone to do the programming or training or to design a creative recreation ministry," he said.

Keeping recreation a ministry, Garner said, involves a lot of research, some kind of proper program organization and the support of the pastor, the staff, and the church.

The pastor especially needs to understand what an effective support church recreation can be to many church program areas.

For example, Garner said, church recreation is used to support Sunday School by providing outlets of fellowship and sports for outreach.

It can support the music program by offering helps and aids in drama and pageant production, all under the auspices of church recreation.

"A valid church recreation program is sweat and hard work," Garner said. "It takes blood, sweat, and tears for people to see you as a viable ministry."

Rec labs are sponsored by the Sunday School Board's church recreation department. About 75 attended the rec lab at Estes Park, Feb. 22-27.

The highest reward that God gives us for good work is the ability to do better.

Summit Caregivers say they'll take care of their widows

By Tim Nicholas

Ah, to have 15 yardworkers! Stacey Bolian of Summit did on a recent Saturday morning.

Widowed for a year-and-a-half, Mrs. Bolian had been planning to hire out the clean up of her overgrown yard.

"No, you won't," said the Caregivers Group at First Church, Summit, which took care of the work for her. After all, that's their job.

Keith Lott, one of the Caregivers, took a break from the brush removal to talk about the program. He said a man's barn had been blown down by a tornado. Lots of folks came to see the damage and the man asked,

"Where are all these people going to be when I rebuild?" His friends did come back and they raised a 30 x 100 foot barn in one day.

"We could do this for everybody," thought Lott. "We had the idea but couldn't put feet to it."

Then David Raddin came as pastor. He had just organized a similar group at Juniper Grove. "Let's see if anybody's interested," he suggested.

They held a meeting last May and 24 showed up. The program evolved into two groups. The 15 visitors go see the 45 or so senior adults and widows at least once a month to see if there are needs. And there are between 15 and 40 workers who actually do the work.

The work ranges from yard work to replacing carport posts, as was done at Mrs. Bolian's, to helping adjust a television antenna at 9 p.m.

One woman phoned to say she was cold and needed a heater. Arrangements were made and a worker installed a new space heater that day. Others have been taken to the library or to the doctor's office in Jackson.

If someone needs insurance information, they'll at least get someone to go by to talk with them. "We try not to turn down any kind of work," says Lott. "But there are some things we can't do and we find somebody who can."

They won't take money for their work, but those being helped purchase the materials. If no materials are needed, they provide lunch for the workers.

On Mondays, Mrs. Bolian and Rita Ballard take tapes of Sunday's service to the homebound.

Raddin says of the program, "Anybody can do it. We hope the group will serve as a motivator to other churches."

Says Lott, "It's good Christian fellowship. We are able to help each other and the bonds you build are tremendous." He adds, "Four or five very motivated people can get it started."

The senior adults and widows at First Church, Summit, are learning a wonderful lesson: "We genuinely care for and love them," says Lott. "They've given a lot in their years. We're going to take care of them."

Nicholas is director, office of communications, MBCB.



From left, Hudora Lewman and Cecilia Brister rake leaves at the home of fellow church member Stacey Bolian. Active in the caregivers group at First Church, Summit, the two women were a part of a team of about 15 which cleaned up Mrs. Bolian's yard and replaced supports on her carport. While Mrs. Brister, a widow as is Mrs. Bolian, was doing the yardwork, another team from the church was making repairs to the floor at her house.



Mark Bishop of First Church, Summit, checks to see if the support of Mrs. Bolian's carport is plumb before nailing.

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April 4, 1991